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SCRIPTURAL STUDIES

*REV. CHARLES BRIDGES M.A.*

1850

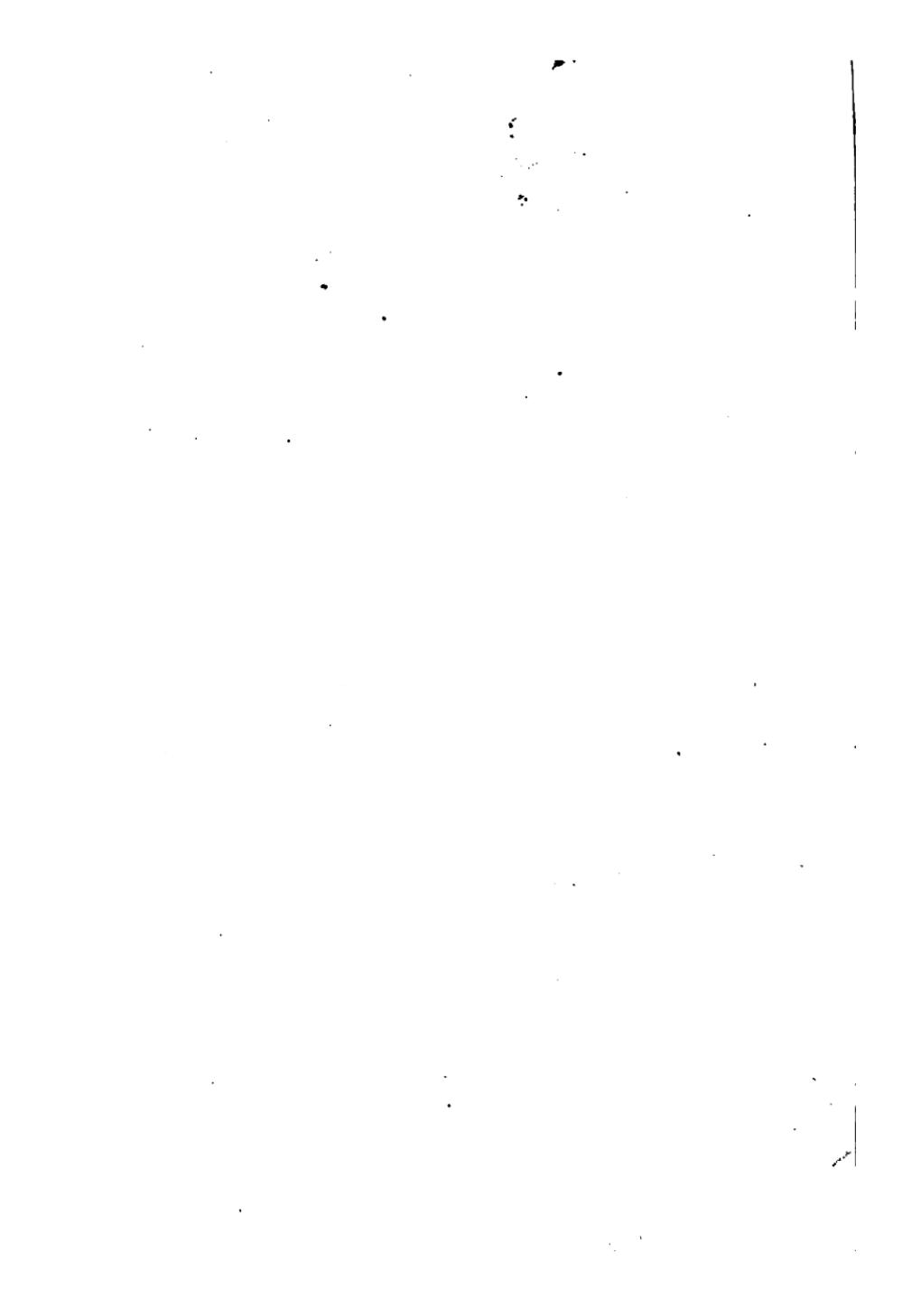




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## **SCRIPTURAL STUDIES.**



## **SCRIPTURAL STUDIES.**



# SCRIPTURAL STUDIES.

BY THE LATE

REV. CHARLES BRIDGES, M.A.,  
RECTOR OF HINTON MARTELL, DORSET.

AUTHOR OF

"AN EXPOSITION OF PSALM CXIX.," "THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY,"  
ETC.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE Author of these Scriptural Studies succeeded me in my pastoral charge of Hinton Martell, Dorset, in 1855. I was a young clergyman of only seven years' experience of the ministry, he a veteran officer in Christ's army. Before accepting the living, Mr. Bridges came from Weymouth to spend a long day with me. And well do I remember how, walking in the garden, he suddenly stopped and said, "Dear friend, which is your favourite commentator on the New Testament?" I ventured to reply, without hesitation, "Bengel." He grasped my hand and said, "So he is mine; there's none like him." I mention the incident because it seems to me that for condensed thought and terseness of expression these Studies on Scripture would bear a favourable comparison with Bengel. It is true they are seed-corn rather than bread. But is not this what students and Sunday School teachers and pastors often most sorely need in our day? There are enough and to spare of harmless dilutions of Bible truths. But we want hints and clues which will

compel meditation and research. And such hints these pages supply. They are suggestive words which, planted by a wise and careful hand, will almost certainly germinate. That they may be watered with the dew of God's blessing, and spring up and bring forth fruit that shall remain to His glory, is the prayer of those who now reprint thoughts which have lost nothing of their freshness by the lapse of years.

E. H. BICKERSTETH.

*Christchurch Vicarage, Hampstead,  
24th July, 1884.*

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## SCRIPTURAL STUDIES.

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### I.

#### COLOSSIANS iii. 16.

LET the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.

Let us ever search the Sacred Book as

##### I. *The Word of Christ.*

As written by his Spirit, 1 Pet. i. 10, 11.

As speaking by his authority, 1 Cor. xiv. 37.

As testifying of his work, Luke xxiv. 44. John v. 39. Acts x. 43. Rev. xix. 10.

As the instrument for the establishment of His kingdom, Ps. xlv. 3—5; cx. 2, 3.

The “Word of Christ” is the Christian’s treasury.

##### II. Let it *dwell in us.*

Not lying on the surface, Matt. xiii. 20.

Not gaining only a temporary entrance, James i. 22—24.

But hidden, Ps. cxix. 11. Prov. iv. 21.

Cherished, Prov. iv. 6—8.

Abiding, Prov. iv. 13. Luke viii. 15. John xv. 7. James i. 25.

Familiar, Deut. vi. 6—8. Ps. cxix. 97.

B

III. Let it dwell in us *richly*.

Not a scanty provision, Matt. xxii. 29.

But a rich storehouse, Prov. ii. 4, 5, Matt. xii. 34, 35. 2 Tim. iii. 16, 17.

Its doctrines enlightening, Ps. xix. 7, 8; cxix. 130. 2 Tim. iii. 15.

Its precepts directing, Deut. xvii. 18—20. Ps. cxix. 9, 98—100, 104. Prov. vi. 23.

Its promises exciting, 2 Cor. vii. 1. 2 Pet. i. 4.

Its comforts supporting, Ps. cxix. 50, 92. Rom. xv. 4.

Its threatenings warning, 2 Kings xxii. 11—13. Ps. xix. 11.

Its prospects invigorating, 1 John iii. 2, 3.

IV. Let it dwell in us *in all wisdom*.

That we may be able to recommend Christ to those that inquire of him, Cant. v. 9—16.

That we may be preserved from perversion of Scripture, Col. i. 9; ii. 8.

That we may try the spirits that are in the Church, 1 Thess. v. 21. 1 John iv. 1. Isa. viii. 19, 20.

That we may obtain richer views of divine truth, 1 Cor. i. 5, 6.

That we may be able to turn Scripture to present use, John ii. 17, 22.

That we may be directed for present duty, Jos. i. 8. Ps. cxix. 105. Prov. vi. 22.

That we may be counselled in present difficulty, Ps. cxix. 24. Prov. vii. 1—4.

That we may be successfully armed for the Christian conflict, Eph. vi. 17. 1 John ii. 14.

That we may have a word in season for all, Matt. xiii. 52. Col. i. 28.

Tbat we may provoke one another to love, Col. iii. 16.

That we may be able to convince gainsayers, Acts vi. 9, 10. 1 Pet. iii. 15.

O thou Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation ; testify to us in and by this Word of Christ. Take of the things of Christ, and show them unto us ; that we may understand them in the light of thy judgment, and receive them in the love of thy truth. Make them our daily study, our constant delight, our heavenly meditation, that our hearts and lives being cast into the mould and substance of them, we may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

---

II.

ISAIAH lviii. 11.

The Lord thy God shall guide thee continually.

The child of God feels himself a helpless wanderer in the wilderness, Jer. x. 23.

Yet he is cheered by the sure promise of a Guide ; and this Guide is the Lord his God.

I. What does the Lord's guidance imply ?

The combined exercise of his wisdom, faithfulness, care, and love.

1. His wisdom, Exod. xiii. 17, 18. Deut. xxxii. 10, 11. Ps. cvii. 7.

2. His faithfulness, Gen. xxviii. 15. Exod. xiii. 21, 22. Ps. xxxvii. 23, 24. Isa. xlii. 16.
3. His care, Ps. xxiii. Isa. xlvi. 10. John x. 3, 4.
4. His love, Ps. xxiii. Hos. ii. 14.

## II. How is the Lord's guidance manifested ?

1. By the clear declarations of his word, Jos. i. 7, 8. Ps. cxix. 24, 105.
2. By the distinct leadings of his providence, Gen. xxiv. 12—15.
3. By the secret intimations of his Spirit, Neh. ix. 20. Isa. xxx. 21; lxiii. 11. Rom. viii. 14.

## III. What dispositions are suitable under the Lord's guidance ?

1. An habitual walk with God, Ps. lxxiii. 23, 24.
2. A spirit of prayer, Jer. xxxi. 9.
3. A subdued will, Ps. xxxii. 8, 9. Isa. xlvi. 17, 18.
4. Implicit faith, Ps. lxiii. 8. Heb. xi. 8. Rev. xiv. 4.
5. Prompt obedience, Exod. xl. 36, 37. Gal. i. 16.
6. Joyful exultation, Ps. xlvi. 12—14.

---

O Lord, let me not frustrate the intentions of thy love, by attempting to guide myself; and let me not provoke thee to leave me to myself, by refusing to follow thy guidance.

O guide me with thy counsel here, and afterwards receive me to thy glory—for thy dear Son's sake. Amen.

## III.

## EPHESIANS ii. 18.

Through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Access to God is the greatest blessing in which sinners can rejoice, Ps. lxv. 4.

It formed the happiness of Paradise, Gen. iii.

The loss of it constitutes the misery of sin, Ps. lxxiii. 29.

And the restoration to it was the object of Christ's coming into the world, 1 Pet. iii. 18.

I. What is access to God ? It is,

1. Reconciliation, Rom. v. 10.
2. Acceptance, Ephes. i. 6.
3. Communion, John xiv. 23.
4. Liberty, Ephes. iii. 12.

II. How is access to God to be obtained ?

Not by the works of the law, Heb. xiii. 10.

Not by any way of our own devising, Mic. vi. 6, 7.

But,

1. Through Christ, John xiv. 6. Rom. v. 2. Eph. iii. 12.  
Atoning, Lev. xvi. 11, &c. Heb. x. 19, 20. Rev. vii. 9—15.  
Interceding, Exod. xxviii. 29, 30, 36, 38. Heb. iv. 14—16; vii. 25; ix. 24; x. 21, 22. Rev. viii. 3, 4.
2. By the Spirit,  
Drawing the heart, John vi. 44. Rom. viii. 14.

Teaching to pray, Rom. viii. 15, 26. Gal. iv. 6.  
 Revealing the way of access, John xvi. 14, 15.

Have we found the way of access ?  
 Having found it, do we not joyfully renounce  
 every other ?  
 Do we make continual use of our privilege ?  
 Are we watchful against any interruption to our  
 enjoyment of it ?

---

#### IV.

##### ACTS ix. 31.

Walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the  
 comfort of the Holy Ghost.

A description of the Believer's holy and happy  
 walk with God.

##### I. The fear of the Lord comprehends,

1. A sense of his presence, Gen. xxviii. 16, 17.
2. A reverence of his name, Deut. xxviii. 58.
3. A dread of displeasing him, Gen. xxxix. 9.  
 1 Sam. xxiv. 5. 6.

##### II. The comfort of the Holy Ghost includes,

1. A broken heart, Isa. lvii. 15.
2. A sense of pardon, Ps. xxxii. 1, 2, 5. Isa. xii.  
 1. Luke vii. 50. Rom. v. 1.
3. A spirit of adoption, Rom. viii. 15. Gal. iv. 6.
4. The manifestation of Christ, John xiv. 21;  
 xvi. 14, 15. Eph. iii. 16—18.
5. The indwelling of the Spirit, John xiv. 16,  
 17. 1 Cor. iii. 16.
6. A lively hope, Rom. xv. 13.

Let the comforts of the Spirit be cherished.

Let them be expected only in an obedient and humble walk with God.

Fear is filial, when it is productive of holy comfort.

Comfort is genuine, when it is chastised by filial fear.

—♦—  
V.

JOHN xv. 5.

I am the Vine; ye are the branches.

The secret of the spiritual life is here unfolded. The believer's life is hid with Christ in God, Col. ii. 3.

Christ is his life, Col. iii. 4.

He lives in Christ, John xiv. 20; xvii. 13.

He lives by Christ, John vi. 51, &c.

As the branch lives in and by the Vine.

This figure expresses,

1. Union, John xvi. 19; xvii. 21. 1 Cor. vi. 17.  
Eph. v. 30.
2. Dependence, John i. 16. Gal. ii. 20.
3. Fruitfulness, John xv. 5. Rom. vii. 4. Hos. xiv. 8. Phil. i. 11.

Therefore see,

1. The believer's security, John xiv. 19. 2 Cor. xiii. 5.
2. The believer's duty, John xv. 4. Col. ii. 6, 7.
3. The believer's prayer, Eph. iii. 17.
4. The believer's privilege, John xv. 7, 11.
5. The believer's prospect, Col. i. 27.

Do I indeed believe this doctrine?  
How is it realized in my daily experience?

Is it not by this I am enabled to persevere in any one act of faith, to cherish one holy desire, or to maintain anything like a filial walk with God?

Not satisfied with possessing some faint evidence of my union with Christ, am I seeking to glorify God by bringing forth much fruit? John xv. 8.

---

## VI.

### PSALM xxxiv. 18.

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

The Lord knoweth the proud afar off, Ps. cxxxviii. 6.  
But he dwells with him that is of a contrite spirit,  
Isa. lvii. 15.

When the sinner feels his distance from God, then it is that he is drawing nigh to God.

He has a broken heart, and God draws nigh to him, Luke xv. 18, 20.

#### I. In a broken heart there is,

1. A sense of sin, Ps. xxxviii. 4. Luke xviii. 13.
2. Self-abhorrence on account of sin, Job xlvi. 6. Ezek. xvi. 63.
3. Justifying God's dealings, Ps. li. 4.
4. A view of the love of a dying Saviour, Zech. xii. 10.
5. A confidence in returning to God, Hos. vi. 1. Luke xv. 18.

#### II. The Lord is nigh, and saveth them.

1. He accepteth such a heart as his sacrifice, Ps. li. 17. Isa. lxvi. 2.

2. He maketh such a heart his abode, Isa. lvii. 15.
3. He speaketh peace to such a heart, Isa. lvii. 18. Luke vii. 50.
4. He healeth such a heart, Ps. cxlvii. 3. Isa. lxi. 1.

Let us search into the cause of hardness of heart.  
 Guard against the continuance of a careless spirit.  
 Direct the eye of faith constantly to the cross of Jesus.

Be faithful to the first convictions of the Spirit.  
 Cease not to pray, till such a frame of mind be obtained.

Look forward to the time when we shall no longer complain of hard hearts—

And when broken hearts shall be healed for ever.  
 Rev. vii. 17 ; xxi. 4.



## VII.

### HABAKKUK ii. 1.

I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.

The first symptom of backsliding is, turning away the ear from God.

The first symptom of returning is, standing on the watch-tower, listening to the voice of God.

This frame of mind implies,

## I. Hearkening to the message

With

1. Attention, Ps. lxxxv. 8.
2. Obedience, Isa. i. 10. Ezra x. 1—8.
3. Expectation, Ps. lxii. 5.
4. Watchfulness, Prov. viii. 34.
5. Faith, Hab. ii. 3, 4.
6. Simplicity, 1 Sam. iii. 10. Acts x. 30—33.

## II. Readiness to answer.

What shall I answer? Job xl. 4.

- I will own the charge, 2 Sam. xii. 13. Luke xv. 21.
- I will deprecate the judgment, Psalm cxlii. 2.
- I will submit to the chastisement, 2 Sam. xv. 25, 26.
- I will lay my hands upon the sacrifice, Lev. xvi. 21.
- I will expect the mercy, 2 Sam. xvi. 11, 12. Mic. vii. 8, 9.

I will renew my surrender, Hos. xiv. 2, 3.

Stand in a posture to receive your daily message from God.

Let conscience be awake to the first intimations of his voice.

Shrink not from the voice of God, though it utter the language of reproof.

Let there be the immediate answer of an obedient heart.



## VIII.

## PROVERBS iii. 6.

In all thy ways acknowledge him.

## I. How are we to acknowledge God?

1. By setting him always before us, Ps. xvi. 8.
2. By taking his word as our rule, Isa. viii. 20.

3. By committing our way to him, 1 Pet. v. 7.  
Ps. xxxvii. 5.
4. By ascribing all to his superintending providence, Gen. xxiv. 26, 27. Matt. x. 29.
5. By connecting our daily mercies with his covenant engagements, Ps. lxviii. 19, 20.  
1 Cor. iii. 22, 23.

## II. When are we to acknowledge God ?

1. In times of temptation, Gen. xxxix. 9.
2. In times of affliction, Job i. 21. Ps. xxxix. 9.
3. In times of perplexity, 2 Chron. xx. 12. Ezra viii. 21—23.
4. In times of outward prosperity, Deut. viii. 18.
5. In times of inward comfort, Isa. xii. 1.
6. At all times, Ps. lxii. 8.
7. In every event and circumstance, Phil. iv. 6.

Beware of a self-dependent spirit. In the exercise of a simple trust in God, expect the fulfilment of the promise, "He shall direct thy paths."

---

## IX.

### ISAIAH xxviii. 16.

Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner-stone, a sure foundation : he that believeth shall not make haste.

A sinking sinner needs a foundation.  
God has laid a foundation for him.

## I. What is the sinner's foundation ?

None but Christ, 1 Cor. iii. 11.

Christ is the foundation,

1. Of our peace, Rom. v. 1. Col. i. 20.
2. Of our acceptance, Eph. i. 6.
3. Of our obedience, Isa. xlv. 24.
4. Of our joy and comfort, 1 Pet. i. 8.
5. Of our hope of glory, Rom. v. 2.

**II. Mark the several properties of this foundation.**

Christ, as a stone, is,

**1. A tried stone.**

God has tried him, Isa. liii. 6.

Sinners have tried him, John i. 29.

Neither have found him wanting, John xvii.  
4. Heb. vii. 25

**2. A precious stone.**

To the Father, Isa. xlvi. 1. Matt. iii. 17.

To his people, 1 Pet. ii. 7.

**3. A corner-stone.**

Uniting his people to himself;

And to each other in him, Eph. ii. 20—22.

**4. A sure foundation.**

For God has laid it, Ps. cxviii. 22, 23.

Nothing shall undermine it, Matt. xvi. 18.

**III. Seek to realize the blessedness of resting upon it.**

“He that believeth shall not make haste,” shall not be confounded, 1 Pet. ii. 6.

1. He shall not be dismayed in difficulties, Ps. cxii. 7.

2. He shall not resort to unlawful expedients. Hos. xiv. 3.

3. He shall not be betrayed into sinful impatience, Hab. ii. 2, 3.

4. He shall not sink into heartless despondency, Ps. xxvii. 13, 14.

But,

1. He shall be kept in perfect peace, Isa. xxvi. 3.
2. He shall be able to answer his spiritual accusers, Rom. viii. 33, 34.
3. He shall meet death without terror, 1 Cor. xv. 55—57. 2 Tim. iv. 6—8.
4. He shall stand in the day of judgment, John v. 24.

Have I renounced every other foundation ?

Are my hopes, prayers, and services built upon this foundation ?

Is my building growing ?

Am I rejoicing in and do I seek the edification of the whole structure ?

Have I found the peace and assurance of resting upon this foundation ?

---

## X.

### PSALM cxix. 113.

I hate vain thoughts.

It is said of the ungodly, "God is not in all their thoughts," Ps. x. 4.

And that "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart is only evil continually," Gen. vi. 5.

But the renewed mind desires, that "every thought should be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

And the language of his heart is,—"I hate vain thoughts."

I. Vain thoughts are either,

1. Thoughts employed upon unlawful things,  
Tit. i. 15 ; or,
2. Unseasonably employed upon lawful things,  
Eccl. iii. 1. Luke x. 39, 40.

II. The believer hates them,

As,

1. Sinful in the sight of God, Prov. xxiv. 9.
2. Hurtful to his own soul, Cant. ii. 15.
3. Contrary to his new nature, Rom. vii. 22.

III. The believer seeks to get rid of them,

By,

1. Realizing the presence of God, Ps. cxxxix.  
1—4.
2. Delighting in the word of God, Ps. cxix. 113.
3. Keeping his heart with all diligence, Prov.  
iv. 23.
4. Watching against occasions of them, Ps. cxix.  
37.
5. Being filled with the Spirit, 1 Cor. iii. 16, 17.
6. Continually applying to the blood of sprink-  
ling, Heb. x. 22.

What is the bent of my thoughts in my unem-  
ployed moments ?

Am I struggling against the incursion of vain  
thoughts ?

If they find their way into my heart, am I taking  
care that they do not lodge there ?

Do I not find constant need to pray, *Unite* my  
heart to fear thy name ? Ps. lxxxvi. 11.

## • XI.

## CANTICLES iv. 16.

Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out.

The Heavenly Bridegroom looks upon his espoused Church with unspeakable delight, 9—11.

She is in his sight as a garden filled with pleasant fruits and fragrant spices, 12—15.

Yet requiring the north and south wind, the searching and refreshing gales of the Spirit, in order to exude their odour.

Therefore he calls his winds to blow, that her “spices may flow out.”

That is,

That her faith may be strong, Luke xvii. 5.

That her hope may be lively, Rom. xv. 13.

That her love may be abounding, Philip. i. 9.

<sup>1</sup> Thess. iii. 12.

That her peace may be established, Isa. xxvi. 3.

That her humility may be deepened, Job xl. 4. Eph. iii. 8.

That her joy may be ardent, 1 Pet. i. 8. Acts xiii. 52.

That her obedience may be entire, Ps. cxix. 128.

When these graces are in her, and abound, how exulting is her invitation and welcome to her Lord!—

“Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.” 16.

## XII.

## 2 CORINTHIANS ii. 11.

Lest Satan should get an advantage of us ;  
for we are not ignorant of his devices.

## I. What are Satan's devices ?

He has many, adapted to,

## 1. The circumstances of the day.

Retirement, Matt. iv. 1.

Religious duties, Matt. xiii. 19.

Social intercourse, Acts xv. 37—39.

Occupations, Luke x. 41.

Prosperity, Deut. viii. 14. 2 Chron. xxxii. 25  
30.

Adversity, Job i. 12—19 ; ii. 4, 5. 2 Chron.  
xxviii. 22.

Disappointments, 2 Sam. xvii. 23. Esther v.  
13. Jonah iv. 1—8.

## 2. The temper of our minds.

Unwatchfulness, Matt. xxvi. 58.

Unbelief, Gen. iii. 3.

Presumption, 2 Chron. xxvi. 16.

Despair, Matt. xxvii. 5.

Envy, Gen. xxxvii. 4. 1 John iii. 12.

Desire to gain the esteem of the Church,  
Acts v. 1—5.

Spiritual sloth, Cant. iii. 1—4. Matt. xxv. 5.

Idleness, 1 Tim. v. 13.

Inclination to sensual indulgence, Heb. xii.  
16.

## 3. The state of the body.

Long continued or aggravated sickness, Job  
ii. 4—8 ; iii. 1, 2. Ps. vi. 1—7.

Drowsiness and languor, Matt. xxvi. 40, 43.  
Uninterrupted health, Ps. lv. 19; cxix. 67.

## II. How must we resist them?

1. Take the whole armour of God, Eph. vi. 11.
2. Watch and pray, Matt. xxvi. 41.
3. Be sober, 1 Pet. v. 8.
4. Let the word of God be in your heart, Ps. cxix. 11. Matt. iv. 1—11. 1 John ii. 14.
5. Cultivate a simple and lowly spirit, Prov. x. 9; xvi. 18.
6. Cherish a loving temper, 2 Cor. ii. 10, 11.
7. Be employed for God, Matt. xii. 43—45.
8. Let faith be in active exercise, Eph. vi. 16. 1 Pet. v. 9.
9. Draw strength from the blood of Christ, Rev. xii. 11.
10. Implore the continual assistance of the Spirit, Isa. lix. 19. Eph. iii. 16.

And let this be our encouragement:

Christ has overcome the wicked one, Luke x. 18. John xii. 31. Col. ii. 15. Heb. ii. 14. Rev. xii. 10. By his sympathy we shall be succoured in our conflicts, Heb. ii. 18.

Through his victory we shall be more than conquerors, Mic. vii. 8. Rom. viii. 37. Rev. xii. 10, 11.

Therefore,

“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you,” James iv. 7.

## XIII.

## HEBREWS iii. 1.

Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, *consider* the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus.

All our springs are in Christ.

All our light, encouragement, and strength come from him.

Therefore it is our privilege and duty to *consider* him.

I. As the object of our contemplation,

In his,

1. Delight in his Father's work, Ps. xl. 8.  
Luke ii. 49. John iv. 32—34.
2. Zeal for his Father's glory, John ii. 14—17.
3. Patient endurance of discouragements, Isa. xlvi. 4; xlix. 4. Heb. xii. 3.
4. Continual self-denial, Mark vi. 31—34.  
Rom. xv. 3.
5. Unwearied endeavours to do good, Mark i. 32—39. Acts x. 38.
6. Improvement of opportunities, Luke xii. 13—15; xiv. 13—25. John iv. 6, &c.; vii. 37.
7. Redemption of time, John ix. 4.
8. Deadness to the world, Mark xiii. 1. John vi. 15.
9. Tenderness to the infirmities of his disciples, Mark iv. 33.
10. Faithfulness in rebuking sin, Matt. xvi. 23.  
Luke xi. 37—52.

11. Tender compassion for sinners, **Mark** iii. 5.  
**Matt.** xxiii. 37. **Luke** xix. 41.
12. Sympathy with the afflicted, **Luke** vii. 12, 13. **John** xi. 35.
13. Victory over temptation, **Matt.** iv. 1—11.
14. Meekness in bearing injuries, **1 Pet.** ii, 22, 23.
15. Forgiveness of injuries, **Luke** ix. 53—56; xxiii. 34.
16. Humility, **Matt.** xx. 28; xxi. 5. **John** xiii. 4—15.
17. Intense interest in the work of redemption, **Prov.** viii. 30, 31. **Mark** x. 32. **Luke** xii. 50. **Heb.** xii. 2.
18. Perseverance and fervour of his prayers, **Matt.** xiv. 23. **Luke** vi. 12; xxii. 44.
19. Acquiescence in his Father's will, **Luke** xxii. 42. **John** xii. 27.

II. As the pattern for our imitation,

Like Him, let us—

Love our Master's service, **2 Cor.** xii. 15. **Phil.** ii. 17.

Be zealously affected for the glory of God, **Acts** xiv. 11—15; xvii. 16. **Phil.** i. 20, 21.

Not be discouraged by difficulties, **Acts** xx. 24. **2 Cor.** iv. 1.

Keep self in continual subjection, **Rom.** xv. 2. 1 **Cor.** xiii. 5. **2 Cor.** viii. 1—9. **Phil.** ii. 4, 5. **1 John** iii. 16.

Lay ourselves out for the good of others, **Gal.** vi. 9, 10.

Be prompt in seizing opportunities, **2 Tim.** iv. 2.

Be diligent in the redemption of time, **Eph.** v. 16.

Cultivate deadness to the world, **Gal.** vi. 14.

Bear with the infirmities of our brethren, Rom. xv. 1. 2 Cor. xi. 29. Gal. vi. 1.

By no means suffer sin upon our neighbour, Lev. xix. 17. Matt. xviii. 15. Gal. ii. 14.

Mourn over sin in others, Ps. cxix. 136, 158. Jer. xiii. 17.

Sympathize with the afflicted, Rom. xii. 15. 1 Cor. xii. 26.

Hope to overcome the tempter, James iv. 7. 1 John ii. 14.

Not be easily provoked by injuries, 1 Pet. ii. 21—23.

Exercise a forgiving spirit, Col. iii. 12, 13.

Be clothed with humility, Matt. xi. 29. 2 Cor. x. 1. Phil. ii. 5.

Have much on our hearts the salvation of sinners, Rom. x. 1. 1 Cor. x. 33.

Pray and not faint, Luke xviii. 1—7. Rom. xii. 12. Eph. vi. 18. 1 Thess. v. 17.

Seek conformity to the will of God, Acts xxi. 12—14.

The more habitually we contemplate this perfect pattern, the more we shall cease from making man our standard; the more shall we be humbled for want of conformity to our Saviour; the more shall we praise him for any measure of conformity; and the more we shall press forward, " beholding as in a glass his glory, and changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord," 2 Cor. iii. 18.

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## XIV.

## ROMANS viii. 32.

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

The world receive their good things as common mercies.

The believer receives them as covenant mercies, Ps. lxviii. 19.

The world know not whence they come, Hos. ii. 8.

The believer expects them from the mercy of a reconciled God, 1 Tim. iv. 3—5.

The world murmur, if they are withheld.

The believer knows they would be given, if they were really good for him, Ps. xxxiv. 10; lxxxiv. 11.

Because God hath given his own Son; and therefore with him all things will be given, 1 Cor. iii. 22, 23.

That is—not all that we seem to want, but all that God sees we want—

1. Afflictions to humble and prove us, Deut. viii. 2.
2. Privations to wean us from the world, Jonah iv. 6, 7.
3. A sufficiency of temporal good, Phil. iv. 19.
4. Spiritual blessings and graces, Ps. lxxxiv. 11. Eph. i. 3.

How does God fulfil this promise?

1. By making us wait for a blessing, Isa. xxx. 18.
2. By strengthening us to bear the refusal of our desire, 2 Cor. xii. 8, 9.

3. By causing us to see the full accomplishment of this promise in whatever he may appoint, Ps. xxv. 10.

Therefore, which of the children of God cannot say with Joshua—"Not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord my God spake concerning me ; all are come to pass unto me, not one thing hath failed thereof" ? Josh. xxiii. 14.



## XV.

### 1 PETER iii. 7.

That your prayers be not hindered.

He who knows not prayer to be a conflict, a warfare, beset with hindrances, has never known what real prayer is.

He who meets these hindrances without grief, without resistance, knows nothing of the privilege of prayer, nothing of a life of faith.

The child of God both feels and resists these hindrances, as depriving him of the happiness of communion with God.

Hence that cry—"Be not silent unto me ; lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down to the pit," Ps. xxviii. 1.

I. What does the Christian find to be a hindrance to prayer ?

Unpreparedness of heart, Job xi. 13—15. Cant. v. 2, 3.

Worldly objects entangling the affections, Ezek. xiv. 4.

Want of Christian love, 1 Pet. iii. 7.

Unbelief, Matt. xxi. 22. James i. 6, 7.

Spiritual sloth, Cant. iii. 1—3.

Unconfessed guilt, Ps. xxxii. 3, 4.

Neglected opportunities, Cant. v. 2—6.

Bodily languor, Mark xiv. 37—41.

Absence of the Spirit's influence, Ps. lxxx. 18.

Isa. lxiv. 7.

Indistinct apprehension of the way of access to God, Job xxiii. 3.

## II. How may hindrances be removed ?

Be aware of their danger, Hos. viii. 9.

Be sensible of your wants, Rev. iii. 17.

Make a fresh application to the blood of Jesus, Heb. x. 22.

Set apart special time for examination into the cause of the hindrance, Ps. cxxxix. 23, 24.

Rest not in anything short of a restoration to former comforts, Ps. xiii. ; li. 12.

Pray and persevere in prayer, in despite of hindrances and difficulties from within and from without, Job xxiii. 3—6. Matt. xv. 22—28.

Labour to give God the whole heart, Jer. xxix. 12, 13.

As you value your own soul, and the privilege of communion with God ; and as you deprecate separation from the source of life and comfort, dread anything which will prove a hindrance to prayer.



## XVI.

## HABAKKUK iii. 2.

O Lord, revive thy work.

“The Son of Man” walketh as the great Head of the Church, “in the midst of the golden candlesticks,” Rev. i. 12—16.

He looks upon the work of his own hands, and too often beholds it drooping, declining, dying: He utters his rebuke—“I know thy works, &c. Be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain, which are ready to die,” Rev. iii. 1, 2.

His Church owns the charge, and cries—“O Lord, revive thy work !”

I. When does the work of the Lord need reviving ?

1. When iniquity abounds, Isa. lix. 1—15. Jer. v; xxiii. 10, &c.
2. Where there is a want of power upon the word, Isa. lxiv. 7. Matt. xiii. 14, 15.
3. When there is a want of appetite for the sincere milk of the word, Numb. xxi. 5. 2 Tim. iv. 3.
4. When the Saviour’s presence in the soul is not duly prized, Cant. iii. 1; v. 2, 3.
5. When there is want of concern for the honour of God, Hag. i. 1—9.
6. When the principles and conduct of Christians are not distinctly separate from the world, 2 Chron. xviii. 1; xix. 2. Ezra ix. 2.

II. How does the Lord revive his work ?

1. By exciting his people to pray, Ps. lxxx.;

lxxxv. 4—7. Isa. lxiii. 17. Zech. viii. 21.  
Acts i. 14; ii. 1.

2. By invigorating their graces, Hos. xiv. 5—7.
3. By sending an increased power upon the word, Acts ii. 41—47; v. 13, 14; vi. 7; xi. 21, 24.
4. By causing a steadfast adherence to the means of grace, Neh. ix. 3. Luke xxiv. 53. Acts ii. 46.
5. By a distinct separation of his people from the company and principles of the ungodly, Neh. ix. 2. Acts ii. 40. 2 Cor. vi. 14—18.
6. By pouring out a spirit of love and unity upon his Church, Isa. xi. 6—9. Acts ii. 44, 45; iv. 32.
7. By enlarging the enjoyment of Christian privileges, Acts ix. 31.
8. By restoring those that have erred in doctrine or practice, to the simplicity of the Gospel, Isa. xxix. 24.

Let us learn the importance of earnest, individual, and united prayer, for the outpouring of that gracious Spirit, who is the Almighty Agent of the revival of the Lord's work in his Church, Isa. lxiv. 1—3.



## XVII.

### PSALM xvi. 7.

I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel.

And have I not reason to bless him?

For his counsel has been among the most precious tokens of his love.

When I was dead in trespasses and sins, he gave me counsel,

- To convince me of my misery, Rev. iii. 17, 18.
- To turn me from the paths of destruction, Prov. i. 24—26. Ezek. xviii. 30—32.
- To invite me to my Saviour, Isa. lv. 1. Matt. xi. 28.

When I had forsaken the path of peace, he gave me counsel,

- To rebuke my wanderings, Jer. ii. 18, 31.
- To guide me to the way of return, Jer. xxxi. 21.
- To excite me to a more circumspect walk, Ps. lxxxv. 8. Jer. iii. 4. John v. 14.

When through grace I am walking in the light, he gives me counsel,

- To direct my way, Isa. xxx. 21. Jer. x. 23.
- To maintain my confidence, Isa. xxx. 15.
- To excite to watchfulness, Luke xii. 35—37.

And I may expect this counsel to be given according to my need,

- In time of worldly prosperity, Deut. viii. 10—16.
- In time of worldly trouble, Micah vi. 9.
- In time of spiritual distress, Isa. l. 20.

He speaks to me

- By the guidance and restraints of his providence, Gen. xxiv. 27. Num. xxii. 22—32. 1 Sam. xxv. 32.

By the still small voice of his Spirit to my heart, Neh. ix. 20.

By the checks and prickings of my conscience, 1 Sam. xxiv. 5.

By the sure and unerring directions of his word, Ps. cxix. 24. Isa. viii. 20.

And what effect should the counsel of the Lord thus graciously vouchsafed have upon me ?

Lively gratitude, " I will bless the Lord."

Diligent improvement of it, Ps. cxix. 67.

Habitual listening and waiting for it, Psalm lxxxv. 8.

Encouragement to future hope, Ps. lxxiii. 24.



## XVIII.

### PSALM CV. 3.

Let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.

Not only does security, but happiness, belong to the ways of God.

And that—not only when they are found, but in the act of seeking them.

Let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.

#### I. Who are called upon to rejoice ?

Those,

1. Who have steadfastly set their faces Zion-ward, Jer. l. 4, 5. Isa. xliv. 5.

2. Who are deterred by no difficulties, Rev. xiv. 4.

3. Who are improving the light shed upon their path, Acts x. 2—6.

4. Who are making daily progress toward heaven, Ps. lxxxiv. 7. Prov. iv. 18.

#### II. Why are they to rejoice ?

Because,

1. They are seeking a better portion, Ps. xvi. 5,  
6. Heb. xi. 16.

2. In seeking they are sure to find, Ps. xcvi.  
11. Isa. xlvi. 19.
3. When found it shall abide with them for ever, Luke x. 42. John xvi. 22.

Yet they do not always rejoice,  
Because of,

1. Unbelief, Ps. lxxvii. 2—10.
2. Impatience, Ps. xxxi. 22; cxvi. 11.
3. The power of temptation, Ps. xlvi. 9, 10.
4. Indulgence of sin, Job xi. 14, 15; xv. 11.

But rest not short of a holy joy, Ps. li. 12.

It is the Christian's *character* to rejoice, Phil. iii. 3.

It is his *duty*, as bringing honour to God, Ps. xxxiv. 1—3.

It is his *privilege*, as bringing support to himself, Acts xvi. 25.

It is his strength, as enabling him to persevere in obedience and conflict, 1 Sam. ii. 1. Neh. viii. 10.

Therefore—"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice," Phil. iv. 4.



## XIX.

### 1 THESSALONIANS v. 19.

Quench not the Spirit.

As if it were said, Grieve not your best friend—Spoil not your choicest comfort—Deprive not yourself of your richest privileges.

For the Spirit is all, and more than all, this to the believer.

Therefore "Quench not the Spirit."

## I. What are his influences?

## 1. Life, John vi. 63.

In our souls, Ezek. xxxvii. 1—14. John iii. 5, 8.

In our graces, Cant. iv. 16.

## 2. Light.

In the revelation of the knowledge of God, Eph. i. 17, 18.

In the glory of Christ, John xvi. 13—15. 1 Cor. xii. 3.

In spiritual blessings, 1 Cor. ii. 9, 10, 12.

## 3. Comfort, John xiv. 16.

Adoption, Rom. viii. 15, 16. Gal. iv. 6.

Supplication, Zech. xii. 10. Rom. viii. 26.

Love of God, Rom. v. 6.

Hope, Rom. xv. 13.

## 4. Strength, Eph. iii. 16.

Against sin, Rom. viii. 13. Gal. v. 16.

Against spiritual enemies, Isa. lix. 19.

Unto holiness, Ezek. xxxvi. 27. Gal. v. 22, 23, 25.

## II. How may these influences be checked?

## 1. By neglecting to cherish them, Matt. xxv. 8.

Which is the case,

When spiritual life is not constantly preserved, Rev. iii. 2.

When spiritual light is not diligently improved, John xii. 35.

When spiritual comfort is not duly valued, Cant. v. 2.

When spiritual strength is not carefully supported, Hos. vii. 9.

## 2. By determinately resisting them, Isa. lxiii. 10. Acts vii. 51.

And this is manifested by  
Dulness of spiritual sensibility, John xii. 39,  
40.

Indulgence of unmortified tempers, Eph. iv. 29  
—32.

Rebellion against the open admonitions of the  
Spirit, Heb. x. 29.

Stifling his secret convictions, Acts xxiv. 25.

Beware of everything tending to quench the  
Spirit, 1 Tim. iv. 14.

Cherish everything tending to encourage his  
influences, 2 Tim. i. 6.

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## XX.

### MATTHEW xxii. 29.

Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures.

“When thy word goeth forth, it giveth light and  
understanding unto the simple,” Ps. cxix. 130.

Therefore, those who know not the Scriptures are  
in darkness.

Those who use them not are in perplexity.

I. The people of God do often err.

1. They yield to unbelief, Luke xxiv. 11.
2. They give way to despondency, Heb. xii. 5.
3. They sink into deadness, Ps. cxix. 25.
4. They yield to the power of temptation, Matt. xxvi. 31.

Because they know not the Scriptures,

As,

1. A ground of faith, Luke xxiv. 25. John ii. 22; xii. 16.

2. A remedy against despondency, Ps. cxix. 92.
3. A means of quickening the soul, Ps. cxix. 50, 93.
4. An instrument of power against temptation, Ps. xvii. 4; cxix. 11. Eph. vi. 17. 1 John ii. 14.

II. How may we so know the Scriptures as to be preserved from error?

1. By diligently searching them, Acts xvii. 11.
2. By frequent meditation on them, Ps. i. 2; cxix. 97.
3. By exercising faith upon them, 1 Thess. ii. 13. Heb. iv. 2.
4. By direct application of them to ourselves, Acts ii. 37.
5. By seeking the teaching of the Holy Spirit, John xvi. 13—15.

Let us learn the importance of bringing everything to the test of Scripture, Isa. viii. 20. John v. 46.

Let us consult it in all perplexities, Ps. cxix. 24.

So shall it be “a lamp to our feet, and a light to our paths,” Ps. cxix. 105.



## XXI.

### HEBREWS xii. 1.

The sin, that doth so easily beset us.

I. How is our besetting sin to be discovered?

By marking,

1. The constitutional temper of our minds.  
As in Peter, fear of man, Matt. xxvi. 69.  
Gal. ii. 11—13.

As in Jonah, fretfulness of temper, Jonah iv. 1—9, &c.

2. The peculiar tendency of God's dealings with us, Deut. viii. 2, 3, 16. Job xxxiii. 17.
3. What seems most to interrupt the presence of God in our souls, Jos. vii. 10—13. Isa. lix. 2.
4. At what point we are most averse to receive reproof, Mark vi. 17—20.
5. What we are most inclined to covet, John xii. 4—7.
6. What it costs us most to abandon, Luke xviii. 23.

## II. How may it be mortified ?

By,

1. Considering the exceeding sinfulness and danger of it, Gen. xxxix. 9. Ps. li. 4.
2. Exercising faith in the death of Christ, Rom. vi. 6—11.
3. Much and earnest prayer for the sanctifying grace of the Spirit, Ps. li. 11, 12. Rom. viii. 13.
4. Conscientiously avoiding the external sources of temptation, Gen. xxxix. 10. Job xxxi. 1. Prov. xxiii. 1, 2.
5. Watching against the inward dispositions that give advantage to it, Ps. xviii. 23. Prov. iv. 23.
6. Habitual self-denial, Luke ix. 23. 1 Cor. ix. 27.

Have I made the real discovery of my sin ?  
Jer. xvii. 9.

Does it never sit lightly upon me ?

Is it never entertained as a bosom-friend, instead of being cast out as a traitor ?

Am I ready to resist unto blood striving against it ?  
Heb. xii. 4.

Do I realize the strength of Christ in its conquest ?  
2 Cor. xii. 9. Eph. vi. 10. Phil. iv. 13.

Am I looking to heaven for complete deliverance from it ? Rom. viii. 23.

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## XXII.

### EXODUS xxxiii. 18.

I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.

I. How was this prayer answered to Moses ?

1. By a display of the goodness of God, Exod. xxxiv. 6, 7.
2. By a display of his sovereignty, Ex. xxxiii. 19.
3. By a display of his justice, Exod. xxxiv. 7.

II. Through what medium will it be answered to us ?

1. In the Gospel, 2 Cor. iii. 18.
2. Through Jesus Christ, John i. 18; xiv. 8, 9. 2 Cor. iv. 6.
3. By the Spirit, 1 Cor. ii. 9, 10. Eph. i. 17, 18.

III. What effect will a sight of this glory have upon us ?

1. Abasement, Exod. xxxiv. 8, 9. Job xlii. 5, 6. Isa. vi. 5.
2. Devotedness, Isa. vi. 8, 9. Acts ix. 3—6.
3. Conformity, 2 Cor. iii. 18. 1 John iii. 2, 3.

Let your desires be supremely fixed on the subject of this petition, Ps. lxiii. 1, 2.

Let it be the object of daily pursuit, Ps. xxvii. 4.  
 Let faith be exercised to behold it, John xi. 40.  
 Let heaven be anticipated as the complete fulfilment of this prayer, John xvii. 24. Rev. xxi. 23.

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## XXIII.

LUKE xxii. 19.

This do in remembrance of me.

This ordinance, as it was a special token of the Saviour's love, so it is a special means of communion with himself. Indeed, all the blessings connected with divine communion may be looked for here.

Let me ask,

## I. Why do I come to the Lord's table ?

To obey my Master's commands, John xiv. 15.  
 To satisfy my spiritual wants, John vi. 35.  
 To feed upon Christ by faith, John vi. 53—56.  
 To remember his dying love, 1 Cor. xi. 23—25.  
 To make a public profession of his death, 1 Cor. xi. 26.  
 To mourn over my own sin, Luke vii. 38.  
 To renew my covenant with God, Ps. cxvi. 16—19.  
 To be strengthened and refreshed in my soul, Cant. ii. 3.

## II. How am I to come ?

With an understanding heart, Ps. xlivi. 3, 4. 1  
 Cor. xi. 29.  
 a reverent heart, Gen. xxviii. 16, 17. Ps. lxxxix. 7.  
 a penitent heart, Ps. li. 17.  
 a hungering heart, Matt. v. 6.

- a believing heart, John vi. 35.
- a sincere heart, Ps. xxvi. 6. 1 Cor. v. 7, 8.
- a loving and charitable heart, Matt. v. 23, 24.  
1 Cor. x. 17.
- a thankful heart, Ps. cxvi. 12, 13. Acts ii. 46.

### III. What may I expect when I come ?

- That I shall not be sent empty away, Ps. xxxvi. 8.  
Jer. xxxi. 14. Luke i. 53.
- That I shall have my comforts enlarged, Ps. lxiii. 5, 6.
- That I shall have my graces invigorated, Cant. i. 12.
- That I shall be blessed according to my need, Phil. iv. 19.

Therefore let me ask,

What comforts do I most desire ?

Assurance of pardon under the guilt of sin, Luke vii. 50.

Victory over the power of sin, Rom. vi. 14.

Joy and peace in believing, Rom. xv. 13.

What graces do I most need ?

If I do not receive sensible comfort,

I may still be filled with goodness, Ps. cvii. 9.

I may be blessed with

Increase of faith, Luke xvii. 5. 1 John v. 13.

Spiritual strength, Zech. x. 12; xii. 8.

Brokenness of heart, Zech. xii. 10.

Let me examine what are my besetting corruptions, 2 Chron. vi. 29.

And go expecting that particular grace whereby I may subdue them, John i. 16.

## XXIV.

## ACTS ix. 6.

Lord, what wilt thou have me to do ?

This first expression of a soul awaking from the sleep of sin, may be suitable as the waking inquiry of every day. For every day brings with it something fresh to do for God, and calls for a fresh dedication of ourselves to his service.

I. It is the expression of a renewed will,

Implying,

1. Singleness, Numb. xiv. 24. Phil. iii. 13.
2. Promptitude, Ps. cxix. 60. Gal. i. 16.
3. Determination, Ps. cxix. 112. Acts xi. 23.

II. And such an expression as this the Lord has engaged to answer, Hos. xiv. 8. Acts ix. 6.

The answer will seldom be mistaken,

If,

1. We remember our high calling as the servants of God, Neh. vi. 11, 12.
2. The first whisper of conscience be regarded, Isa. xxx. 21.
3. The dictates of the flesh be silenced, Matt. xvi. 23.
4. The word of God be diligently meditated upon, Ps. cxix. 11, 24.
5. The teaching of the Spirit be earnestly implored, Ps. cxlii. 10.

And hast thou anything for me to do, O my God ? O bless me with a ready will, a cheerful mind. Let me be constrained by a Saviour's dying love, that I may "delight to do thy will, O Lord."

## XXV.

## MATTHEW xi. 28.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

## I. What is rest ?

That which every human creature is seeking, Ps. iv. 6.

That which the world offers, Prov. ix. 16, 17.

But can never give, Eccles. i. 13, 14; ii. 22, 23.

## II. Where is it to be obtained ?

Not in sin, Isa. lvii. 10, 20. Jer. ii. 36.

Not in riches, Ps. xxxix. 6. Eccles. v. 10, 12.

Not in idleness, Prov. xv. 19.

Not in pleasure, Eccles. ii. 1.

Not in fame, Eccles. ii. 16.

Not in knowledge, Eccles. i. 18.

Not in self-righteousness, Heb. iv. 3, 10.

But only in Christ, Heb. iv. 3.

In his atonement, Rom. v. 10.

In his righteousness, Ps. xxxii. 1, 2.

In his intercession, Rom. viii. 34.

In his glory, Heb. iv. 9. Rev. vii. 16, 17.

Therefore,

Come to him,

At all events and hazards, Matt. xv. 22.

Guilty, Luke vii. 37, &c.

Naked, Rev. iii. 18.

Lost, Matt. viii. 25.

Ignorant, Luke x. 39.

Tempted, 2 Cor. xii. 7, 8.

Backsliding, Jer. iii. 22.

Abide in him, John xv. 9.  
Follow him, Matt. xi. 29.

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## XXVI.

## MATTHEW xii. 34.

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

The heart is the great treasury of good and evil.

The frame of the believer's heart orders his conversation, and "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

I. What is that frame of heart, that constrains the believer to speak?

1. A sense of redeeming love, Acts iv. 20.
2. A sense of the worth of the soul, Acts xvii. 16, 17; xviii. 5.
3. A lively apprehension of eternal things, 2 Cor. iv. 13; vi. 11.
4. Answers to prayer, 1 Sam. i. 27; ii. 1—10. Ps. lxvi. 16—18.

II. What has he to speak for?

1. For the honour of his Saviour, Ps. cxlv. 11, 12. Col. iii. 16, 17.
2. For the encouragement of the weak, Ps. xxxiv. 2.
3. For the conviction of the world, Col. iv. 6. 1 Pet. iii. 15.

III. What are the hindrances to his speaking?

1. A sense of guilt, Ps. li. 14.

2. Want of the Lord's sensible favour, Ps. li. 12, 13.
3. A heart not filled with divine things, Eph. v. 18, 19.
4. Fear of man, Matt. xxvi. 69—74.

Is it a grief to me that I am fluent in worldly conversation, and dumb in my Saviour's praise?

Am I seeking to have my heart filled with heavenly things, that "out of the abundance thereof my mouth may speak?"

Is it my daily prayer, that the Lord would open my lips to show forth his praise?

Am I watchful, lest my conversation should be only the talk of the lips, that tendeth to penury? Prov. xiv. 23.

Do I fear sinful silence, as well as sinful speaking?

Is it painful to me when I am unable to bear testimony for my Saviour? Ps. xxxix. 1, 2. Jer. xx. 9.



## XXVII.

### HOSEA xiv. 8.

Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols?

Every indulged sin in God's people is an idol in the place of God, Ezek. xiv. 3.

God is a jealous God, Isa. xlvi. 8.

And therefore withdraws himself, Hos. iv. 17; v. 15. 2 Cor. vi. 16.

I. The convinced backslider will say,

What have my idols done for me? Jon. ii. 8.  
Rom. vi. 21.

What comfort, what support, what hope have they afforded me ? Judges xviii. 24.

They have destroyed my comfort, Job xv. 11.

They have weakened my strength, Hos. vii. 9.

They have clouded my hope, Isa. lvii. 17 ; lix. 2.

II. The penitent backslider will say,

What have I to do with them any more ? Jer. iii. 21—23. Hos. ii. 7. Luke xv. 13—20.

I am ashamed of them, Jer. xxxi. 19. Ezek. xvi. 63.

I hate them, Deut. vii. 26. Ps. ci. 3.

I renounce them, Isa. xxvi. 13.

I yield myself up to thee, Acts ix. 6. Rom vi. 13, 19.

And what saith the answer of God ?

“ I have heard him, and observed him,” Hos. xiv. 8.

“ I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the Lord,” Jer. xxxi. 20.



## XXVIII.

### EPHESIANS v. 16.

#### Redeeming the time.

The Christian’s motto is, “ Ye are bought with a price,” 1 Cor. vi. 20.

Therefore all he is and has is the Lord’s.

His time, as well as his other talents, he has received with this injunction,—“ Occupy till I come,” Luke xix. 13.

And therefore,

I. He desires to redeem the time

From,

1. Unprofitable conversation, Ps. cxli. 3. Eph. v. 4.
2. Useless interference with the concerns of others, 1 Tim. v. 13.
3. Indulgence of the flesh, Ps. cxix. 147, 148.
4. Want of punctuality in engagements, Eccles. iii. 1.
5. Prodigality of minutes, Eccles. ix. 10.

II. He finds motives for the redemption of time

In,

1. A Saviour's love, 2 Cor. v. 14, 15.
2. Recollection of wasted time, 1 Pet. iv. 3.
3. A sense of the nearness of eternity, Rom. xiii. 11.
4. The account to be given, Luke xix. 15.

And let us, as our encouragement and incentive to this duty, ever set before us the example of Him, Who said, "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day," John ix. 4;

Who abridged himself of needful sleep, Mark 1. 35, and refreshment, Mark vi. 31—34—

That he might fill up every moment in the work for which he came down from heaven.



## XXIX.

COLOSSIANS iii. 24.

Ye serve the Lord Christ.

An encouraging thought to those who are employed, however humbly, in the service of God. They "serve the Lord Christ."

## I. How universal his requirements !

1. No duty but must be done in his name, Col. iii. 17, 23.
2. And must engage the whole heart, Matt. xxii. 37.

## II. How important his service !

Requiring,

1. Implicit faith, Isa. xlix. 4.
2. Cheerful obedience, Acts xx. 24; xxi. 13. Eph. vi. 6, 7.
3. Habitual self-denial, Matt. xvi. 24. Rom. xv. 1—3.

## III. How constraining the motives to serve him !

1. His own dying love, John xxi. 15, 16.
2. A concern for his glory, Phil. i. 20, 21. Tit. ii. 10.
3. The perishing state of souls, 1 Cor. x. 33. Jude 23.

## IV. How abundant the encouragement !

Arising from,

1. The character of our Master—"The Lord Christ."
2. His willingness to accept our service, Matt. x. 42. 2 Cor. viii. 12.
3. The strength he imparts to serve him, 2 Cor. ix. 8. Phil. iv. 13.
4. The recompence set before us, Luke xii. 35, —38. John xii. 26. 1 Cor. xv. 58. Rev. ii. 10.

## V. How blessed the privilege !

1. It is the work of the angels of God, Ps. ciii. 20. Heb. i. 14.

2. It will be the work of the redeemed in heaven, Rev. vii. 15 ; xxii. 3.

Therefore,

Be ready to serve him, Isa. vi. 8.

Be aware of your own inability to serve him, 2 Cor. iii. 5, 6.

Be humbled for the unprofitableness of your best services, Ps. cxliii. 2. Luke xvii. 10.

Beware of drawing back from his service, Jonah i. 3. Luke ix. 62.

Be ashamed of yielding to discouragements, Josh. vii. 6—10. 1 Kings xix. 4—9. Neh. vi. 11.

Be constant at a throne of grace, Col. iv. 12.



### XXX.

#### ISAIAH l. 10.

Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God.

Here is a tempted Saviour, counselling his tempted people, Isa. l. 4.

I. Under what circumstances of spiritual darkness does this counsel apply?

To times of

Spiritual desertion, Ps. lxxvii. 7—9.

Satan's temptations, Ps. cxliii. 3.

Personal affliction, Job xxx. 16—21. Isa.  
xxxviii. 10.

Zion's troubles, Isa. xlix. 14.

II. What is the counsel given to the believer ?

To trust in the name of the Lord, Exod. xxxiv. 5,  
6. Ps. ix. 10. Prov. xviii. 10.

To stay upon his God, Isa. xxvi. 3, 4; xxvii. 4, 5.

Because,

In spiritual desertion the Lord will not cast off,  
Isa. liv. 7, 8.

In Satan's temptations the Lord will conquer,  
Isa. lix. 19.

In personal affliction the Lord will support, Ps.  
xli. 3, 4. 2 Cor. i. 3, 4.

In Zion's troubles the Lord is faithful, Isa. xlix.  
15, 16.

In such a season,

Be diligent in searching out the cause, Job x.  
2; xv. 11.

Beware of grieving the Spirit by impatience,  
Ps. xxxi. 22. Jonah iv. 1.

Beware of injuring the cause of religion by the  
appearance of gloom or dejection, Ps. lxix. 6,  
7. Matt. vi. 16, 17.

But,

Let there be an humble submission under the  
chastisement of God, Lev. x. 3; xxvi. 41.  
Job i. 20; ii. 10. Ps. xxxix. 9. Lam. iii. 39.

And a patient expectation of the return of his  
mercy, Ps. xxvii. 13, 14; xlii. 7, 8; cxxx. 5,  
6. Isa. viii. 17. Lam. iii. 26. Jonah ii. 4.  
1 Pet. v. 6.

## XXXI.

## MICAH iv. 5.

For all people will walk every one in the name of his god ; and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

Man, as a rational being, must have an object of worship.

The multitude are devoted to the idols of their own hearts.

And many lessons do they teach us of self-denial, wisdom, and diligence, in the service of our God.

As their character is in conformity with the object of their worship, Ps. cxv. 8,

So should ours be, 1 Pet. i. 14—16.

As they walk in the name of their god—

Some praising the gods of gold and silver, &c.

Dan. v. 4 ;

Some setting up the stumbling-block, &c. Ezek. xiv. 4 ;

Some making a god of their belly, Phil. iii. 19 ;

Some saying to "gold, Thou art my confidence,"

Job xxxi. 24. Eph. v. 5 ;

Others worshipping and serving the creature, Rom. i. 25—

So will we walk in the name of our God.

We will profess his name, Isa. xliv. 5. Dan. vi. 10, 11.

honour his character, 1 Chron. xvi. 23. Dan. iii. 16, 17.

love his service, Ps. cxvi. 16. Isa. xxvi. 13.

walk in his ways, Isa. ii. 3. Zech. x. 12.

Is this our profession ?

What then is our walk ?

## XXXII.

## JAMES iv. 8.

Draw nigh to God ; and he will draw nigh to you.

The end of all ordinances is to bring us nigh to God, Matt. xviii. 20.

Christ is the way of access, John xiv. 6.

Every breathing of real prayer is a drawing nigh unto God.

Every return of blessing is God's drawing nigh unto us.

I. How must we draw nigh to God ?

1. Through Christ, Heb. vii. 19 ; xiii. 15.
2. By the Spirit, Eph. ii. 18 ; vi. 18. Jude 20.

II. In what spirit must we draw nigh ?

1. With a clean heart, Ps. xxvi. 6 ; lxvi. 18, 19. James iv. 8.
2. With a broken heart, Joel ii. 12. James iv. 9.
3. With a believing heart, Heb. x. 22.

III. What shall be our success ?

He will draw nigh to us,

1. To hear our prayers, Ps. xxxiv. 17, 18.
2. To support our hopes, Lam. iii. 57.
3. To take up his abode in our hearts, Isa. lvii. 15. Rev. iii. 20.

What is my habitual frame in attending upon the ordinances ?

Do I resort thither  
With

An intention of drawing nigh to God ?

An expectation that God will draw nigh to me ?  
A resolution to be satisfied with nothing short  
of this ? Ps. xlvi. 1, 2.

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## XXXIII.

## HEBREWS v. 8, 9.

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered ; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.

It is alike our duty and privilege to contemplate the character and offices of the Saviour, Heb. iii. 1.

It was as necessary for the work of salvation, that he should be perfect man as perfect God, Heb. ii. 16—18.

Mark in the text the union of his personal and official character.

## I. His personal character.

## 1. His person,

As a Son, Heb. i. 4, 5.

From his birth increasing in wisdom, Luke ii. 52.  
The Spirit given to him without measure, John iii. 34.  
The Spirit resting upon him constantly, Isa. xi. 2.

## 2. His lesson.

He learned obedience, John vi. 38; viii. 29.

{ Delight in his Father's service, Ps. xl. 7, 8.  
     John iv. 32—34.  
     Resignation to his Father's will, Matt. xxvi.  
         39. John xii. 27, 28.  
     Perseverance in his appointed work, Matt. iii.  
         15. Mark x. 32. Luke xii. 50. Phil. ii. 8.

3. The school in which he learned was suffering,  
     Isa. liii. 3.

His sufferings were the occasion of calling his obedience into exercise, such as,

{ The temptations of Satan, Matt. iv. 1—10.  
     Heb. ii. 18.  
     The contradiction of sinners, Matt. xxii. 15—  
         46. Heb. xii. 3.  
     The endurance of bodily trials, Ps. xxii. 6—8;  
         lxix. 21. Isa. l. 5, 6.  
     The imputation of sin, Ps. xxii. 1—3.

By these sufferings being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation, &c.

## II. His official character.

1. The author of eternal salvation, Heb. ix. 12.

{ By working out an everlasting righteousness,  
     Dan. ix. 24.  
     By implanting a principle of love, 2 Cor. v.  
         14, 15. 1 Pet. ii. 24.  
     By supplying unceasing help to the end, Heb.  
         ii. 18.  
     By ever living to make intercession, Heb. vii.  
         25.

2. The subjects of this salvation—"all them that obey him," Isa. lv. 3.

Who obey his call to

**{** Repentance, Mark i. 15. Acts ii. 38.  
 Faith, Matt. xi. 28.  
 Obedience, Matt. xi. 29.

Let the Saviour's obedience encourage our obedience, John xv. 10.

Let the Saviour's example, in learning obedience from suffering, teach us the profit of suffering, Ps. xciv. 12 ; cxix. 71.

Let the Saviour's character be contemplated as the source of every spiritual blessing to his obedient people, Matt. xvii. 5. Acts v. 31, 32.



## XXXIV.

### PSALM XXV. 5.

On thee do I wait all the day.

**I. What does a waiting spirit denote ?**

1. Faith, Matt. xv. 22—28.
2. Humility, 2 Sam. xv. 25, 26.
3. Desire, Isa. xxvi. 8, 9.
4. Expectation, Ps. lxii. 5 ; cxxiii. 1, 2 ; cxxx. 5, 6.
5. Constancy, Job xiii. 15 ; Prov. viii. 34.

**II. Who are to wait on God ?**

1. The ignorant, to be taught, Ps. xxv. 5.
2. The backslider, to be restored, Jer. xxix. 12, 13. Mic. vii. 7—9.
3. Those who are in darkness, to be enlightened, Isa. viii. 17 ; l. 10.
4. The believer, to be strengthened, Ps. xxvii. 14. Isa. xl. 31.

## III. When are we to wait on God ?

All the day, Hos. xii. 6.

1. In an habitual looking to God, Ps. xvi. 8.  
1 Cor. x. 31.
2. In receiving our daily comforts from him,  
Ps. lxviii. 19. 1 Tim. iv. 4, 5.
3. In committing our cares and difficulties to  
him, Ps. xxv. 15. Matt. vi. 34.
4. In employing the mind on his word, Ps. i. 2 ;  
cxix. 97.
5. In watching the intimations of his providence  
and his Spirit, Hab. ii. 1.
6. In exercising the soul in continual prayer  
and praise, Ps. lv. 17 ; cxix. 164. Dan. vi.  
10.

This is a privilege the world knows nothing of.

Oh ! let us, as believers, enjoy it by using it ;  
For "the Lord is good to them that wait for him,  
to the soul that seeketh him." Lam. iii. 25.



## XXXV.

## PSALM cxix. 59.

I thought on my ways, and turned my feet  
unto thy testimonies.

The heart of fallen man is turned to his own  
iniquity, Isa. liii. 6.

God is not in all his thoughts, Ps. x. 4.

And even the renewed heart is bent to turn aside  
from the good ways of God, like a deceitful bow.

In both cases, it is the work of the Holy Spirit to  
turn the heart back to his God ;

Producing,

I. Consideration—awakened to ask,

1. What have I done ? 2 Sam. xii. 13. Jer. viii. 6.
2. What does the Lord mean me to do ? Jer. iii. 22. Lam. iii. 40.

This consideration will issue in,

II. Obedience,

1. Prompt, cxix. 60. 2 Chron. xxix. 36. Zech. viii. 21. Luke xv. 18—20.
2. Sincere, Ps. xviii. 21—23.
3. Persevering, 2 Chron. xv. 17. Luke xxii. 28.

Let every declension from God be jealously watched, Ps. cxxxix. 23, 24. Prov. iv. 26, 27.

Let Christ be ever regarded as the only way of turning to the ways of God, John xiv. 6.

Be faithful to the convincing voice of the Spirit, Prov. i. 23. Rev. ii. 29.

Repent, and do the first works, Rev. ii. 5.



## XXXVI.

### PROVERBS viii. 34, 35.

Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors ; for whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord.

I. The acceptable spirit for waiting upon Christ.

1. Faith, in hearing his word, John v. 24. 1 Thess. ii. 13.
2. Patience, in waiting for the tokens of his

grace, Ps. cxxx. 5, 6. Isa. xxx. 18. Matt. xv. 22, 28.

3. Diligence in the use of all the means of grace, Cant. i. 7, 8. Isa. lxiv. 4, 5.

## II. Encouragement to wait upon Christ.

1. They shall find life.

Christ is their life, John xiv. 6. Col. iii. 4.

Life in their souls, Gal. ii. 20.

Life in their graces, John x. 10.

2. They shall obtain favour.

Favour towards their persons, Gen. iv. 4.

Eph. i. 6.

Acceptance of their services, 1 Pet. ii. 5.

Communication of all spiritual blessings, Rom. viii. 32. 1 Cor. iii. 22, 23. Eph. i. 3.

Why is it that we realize so little of the blessedness here spoken of?

Is it not, that we are too often satisfied with the act of prayer, without diligent, persevering, believing, waiting on the Lord? Gen. xxxii. 26. Isa. viii. 7.

Do we wait on the Lord in every ordinance of his appointment? Isa. xxvi. 8.



## XXXVII.

### MATTHEW xvi. 24.

If any man will come after me let him deny himself.

Self has been the idol of the natural heart, ever since it turned from God as its chief good and highest end.

If then Jesus is to be adored and followed, self must be dethroned and trampled under foot.

Therefore, the terms of his discipleship are—"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself."

### I. Let him deny

His,

1. Self-will, Matt. vi. 10.
2. Self-seeking, John iii. 33. 1 Cor. x. 33.
3. Self-interest, Luke vi. 35; xiv. 12.
4. Self-sufficiency, Prov. iii. 5; xxiii. 4.
5. Self-righteousness, Isa. lxiv. 6. Phil. iii. 9.
6. Self-complacency, Luke xvii. 10. 1 Cor. xv. 10.
7. Self-opinion, 1 Cor. iii. 18.
8. Self-display, Phil. ii. 3.

### II. Self-denial must extend to

1. Lawful engagements, Luke ix. 60—62; xiv. 18—20.
2. Worldly prospects, Jer. xlvi. 5. Matt. xix. 21, 22.
3. Reputation, Phil. iii. 7.
4. Enjoyments, Ps. cxxxii. 3, 4. 1 Cor. vii. 30.
5. Appetites, 2 Sam. xxiii. 15—17.
6. Affections. Ps. lxxiii. 25. Matt. x. 37. Luke xiv. 26.
7. Tempers, Gal. v. 24.
8. Yielding precedence to others, Luke xiv. 8—10.
9. Overcoming unkindness by good offices, Rom. xii. 20, 21.
10. The disposal of our substance, Mark xii. 41—44.
11. Our profession of religion, Matt. vi. 1—6, 16—18.

**III. Special occasions of self-denial.**

1. Whenever we find God's place usurped in the heart, Mark ix. 43—48. 2 Cor. x. 5.
2. When the flesh threatens to predominate, 1 Cor. ix. 27.
3. When any indulgence unfits for secret devotion, 1 Cor. vii. 29—31, 35.
4. When we are under the power of besetting sin, Ps. xviii. 23. Heb. xii. 1.
5. When our own state, or that of the Church of God, requires peculiar abstraction, Dan. ix. 3, 4, 20.
6. When the spiritual good of others is concerned, Rom. xv. 1. 1 Cor. viii. 13; x. 23, 24.
7. When it is in our power to promote their temporal interests, 2 Cor. viii. 1—4.

**IV. The reasonableness of self-denial.**

1. Because self is the great enemy of God, Rom. viii. 7.
2. Because it is the principle of our fallen nature, Hos. x. 1. 2 Tim. iii. 2.
3. Because it is the greatest hindrance to our real happiness, Rom. vi. 21.

**V. Springs and motives of self-denial.**

1. The love of Christ, 2 Cor. iv. 5; v. 14, 15.
2. The example of Christ, Matt. xx. 26—28; xxvi. 42. John xiii. 1—14. Rom. xv. 1—3. Phil. ii. 4—8.
3. The power and grace of the Spirit, Rom. viii. 13. Gal. v. 16, 25, 26.
4. The recollection of past unprofitableness, 1 Pet. iv. 1—3.

5. The power of faith, Heb. xi. 24—26.
6. The hope of glory, 1 Cor. ix. 25.

Take care that self-righteousness be not the ground of your self-denial, Luke xviii. 12.

Take care not to measure your course of self-denial by that of another.

Remember this is the path your Saviour has marked out for you, by his rule and by his cross.

This is the light and easy yoke he has appointed you to bear.

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### XXXVIII.

#### MATTHEW xxv. 5.

And while the Bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

A solemn hint and an awakening call to the professing Church of Christ !

#### I. Why does the Bridegroom tarry ?

1. For his people,  
To exercise their faith, Hab. ii. 3.  
To keep them watchful, Matt. xxv. 13.  
To excite their prayers, Luke xviii. 7.
2. For the world,  
To manifest his forbearance, Luke xiii. 7.  
1 Pet. iii. 20.  
To complete his own designs, Mark xiii. 7, 10.

#### II. What is the effect of this tarrying ?

1. His people are unwatchful, Luke xviii. 8.
2. The world are unprepared, Luke xii. 45, 46;  
xvii. 26—30.

Beware of the sin of slumbering,

As inconsistent with our Christian profession,  
1 Thess. v. 6.

As exposing us to heavy rebukes, Rev. iii. 1—3.

As clouding our light before the Church, Rev. xvi. 15.

Seek to maintain a watchful frame,

By

Realizing the nearness of the Lord's coming,  
Rom. xiii. 11.

Waiting in constant expectation of it, Luke xii. 36, 37. Heb. ix. 28. James v. 7, 8.

Comforting ourselves and each other in the prospect of it, Isa. xxv. 9. 1 Thess. iv. 16—18. 2 Thess. i. 10. Tit. ii. 13.

Living in meetness for it, Phil. iii. 20. Col. iii. 1—4. 2 Pet. iii. 10—14. 1 John iii. 2, 3.

Sitting loose to earthly things, 1 Cor. vii. 29—31. Phil. iv. 5.

Holding fast our profession, Heb. x. 25. 1 Pet. i. 13. Rev. iii. 11.

Surely I come quickly! Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! Rev. xxii. 20.



### XXXIX.

JEREMIAH xvii. 10.

I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give to every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Mark the omniscience of God in searching the heart,

And his equity in deciding upon that search.

I. His omniscience in searching,

1. The thoughts and imaginations, 1 Chron. xxviii. 9. Ps. cxxxix. 2.
2. The desires, Ps. xxxviii. 9. John i. 48.
3. The motives, 1 Chron. xxix. 17. Mark xii. 41—44. John ii. 24, 25.
4. The affections, Ps. lvi. 8. John xxi. 17.

The consideration of this omniscience is,

1. A principle of obedience, Ps. cxix. 168.
2. A motive for watchfulness, Rev. iii. 1, 2.
3. A ground of consolation, 2 Chron. vi. 8.
4. An encouragement to prayer, Rom. viii. 26, 27.

II. His equity in deciding upon this search, 1 Cor. iv. 5.

1. In the way of righteous retribution, Luke xii. 1, 2.
2. In the way of righteous promise, 2 Tim. iv. 8.  
    { to those that think on his name, Mal. iii. 16.  
    { to those that love his people, Matt. xxv. 40.  
    { to those who hold communion with himself, Matt. vi. 6.  
    { to those who delight in his service, Rev. iii. 8—12.

Search the heart, Ps. iv. 4.

Keep the heart, Prov. iv. 23.

Distrust the heart, Prov. xxviii. 26.

In godly jealousy forget not to pray, Ps. cxxxix. 23, 24.

In Christian sincerity, maintain your confidence, 1 John iii. 20, 21.

Take refuge from the solemn recollection of the omniscience of God, in the hope of the Gospel, Heb. iv. 13, 14.

## XL.

## 1 TIMOTHY vi. 18.

Rich in good works.

## I. What are good works?

They are works done from love to Christ,  
Matt. x. 42; xxv. 35—40. Heb. vi. 10.  
To the bodies of men, Acts ix. 36, 39.  
To their souls, Phil. ii. 30.

As,

1. The effect of faith, Acts xvi. 34. Gal. v. 6.
2. The fruit of the Spirit, Gal. v. 22, 23. Eph. v. 9.

## II. What is it to be rich in good works?

1. To abound in them, Isa. xxxii. 8. 2 Cor. ix. 8.  
1 Tim. vi. 18.
2. To deny ourselves for the performance of them,  
2 Cor. viii. 2, 3.
3. To seek opportunity for them, Job xxix. 16.  
2 Tim. i. 17.

## III. How are we to be rich in good works?

1. Abide in Christ, John xv. 4, 5. Rom. vii. 4.
2. Hold fast the doctrine of Christ, Tit. iii. 8.
3. Follow the example of Christ, 2 Cor. viii. 9.
4. Pray for an enlarged heart, 1 Thess. iii. 12.
5. Beware of covetousness, Ps. cxix. 36. Luke xii. 15. Heb. xiii. 5.
6. Delight in the exercise, 2 Cor. ix. 7.
7. Have regard to the motive, Matt. vi. 2—4.  
Rom. xii. 8.
8. Remember your stewardship, Luke xvi. 1;  
xix. 13.

Am I diligently seeking every occasion of thus showing my love to my Saviour ?

Am I daily resisting the influence of a selfish spirit ?

Which am I seeking first ? Mine own things, or the things that are Jesus Christ's ?

Do I make conscience of personal expenses, that I may have to give to him that needeth ?

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### XLI.

#### EPHESIANS iv. 29.

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth ; but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

The world say—"Our lips are our own," Ps. xii. 4.

The Christian says—We are not our own, 1 Cor. vi. 19.

Therefore we are to "glorify God with our body, as well as with our spirit," 20.

With every member of our body.

With the best member that we have, Ps. cviii. 1.

Therefore, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth."

#### I. The evil of corrupt communication.

Idle, frivolous, Matt. xii. 36. 1 Tim. v. 13.

Evil, Eph. v. 4. Col. iii. 8.

Slanderous, Prov. x. 18.

Bitter and hasty, Prov. xxix. 20.

Whatever is not good for the use of edifying, (Text).

Which

Deadens the fervour of the soul, Cant. ii. 15.

Defiles the imagination, James iii. 6.

Embitters the temper, Eph. iv. 31.

Grieves the Holy Spirit, Eph. iv. 30.

## II. The blessing of edifying conversation,

Such as relates to

The things of Christ and eternity, Luke xxiv. 14, 19.

The life of God in the soul, Ps. lxvi. 16.

The spread of the Gospel in the world, Ps. cxlv. 10—13.

The diffusion of a heavenly savour over worldly subjects, Col. iv. 6.

Such conversation tends to minister grace to the hearers,

In the way of

Mutual encouragement, Ps. xxxiv. 1—3. Acts xxviii. 15.

Mutual sympathy, 1 Sam. xxiii. 16, 18. Job xxii. 29.

Mutual exhortation, Prov. xxvii. 17. Heb. iii. 13; x. 24, 25.

Mutual counsel, Ps. lv. 14. Prov. xxvii. 9

## III. The means of promoting it.

1. Let us ourselves seek to be filled with the Spirit, Eph. v. 18, 19.

2. Let us keep our hearts with all diligence, Matt. xii. 34, 35.

3. Let us meet in the fear of God, Mal. iii. 16.

4. Let us meet in the spirit of prayer, Rom. i. 10—12; xv. 30.

5. Let us consider our relation one to another,  
Eph. iv. 25.

Have I not been too ready to listen to unprofitable conversation?

Is it a trial to me when unable to speak to the use of edifying?

Am I setting the day of judgment before me in my intercourse with my fellow-creatures? Matt. xii. 36, 37.

Do I realize the promised presence of Christ? Matt. xviii. 20. Luke xxiv. 32.



## XLII.

### 1 JOHN iii. 20.

If our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

The voice of conscience is the voice of God.

If we are condemned by the judgment of conscience, much more shall we be condemned at the bar of God.

“God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.”

#### I. The condemnation at the bar of conscience.

Generally, this may be expected,

When, in the allowance of sin, we shrink from the light, John iii. 20.

More particularly is the voice of self-condemnation heard,

1. By the power of the word, 2 Sam. xii. 7, 13.  
Acts ii. 37; xxiv. 25. 1 Cor. xiv. 24, 25.

2. Under the afflictive dispensations of Pro-

vidence, Gen. xlvi. 21. 1 Kings xvii. 18.  
Jonah i. 12.

3. On some unexpected or alarming occurrence, Gen. xli. 9. Acts xvi. 26, 27.
4. By the recollection of our unconverted state, Job xiii. 26. Luke xix. 8.
5. In the consciousness of wrong motives, 2 Sam. xxiv. 10.
6. In the wilful neglect of secret prayer, Ps. xxxii. 3, 4.
7. In the indulgence of a spirit of despondency, Ps. xxxi. 22; lxxvii. 7—10.
8. In yielding to sudden surprisals, 1 Sam. xxiv. 5, 6.
9. In want of tenderness to the sins of others, Eccles. vii. 21, 22. John viii. 7, 9.
10. In giving way to the tempter's devices, Gen. iii. 8, 9. Luke xxii. 60, 62.

And this condemnation is confirmed by,

II. The verdict of the Omniscient Judge.

“God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.”

And how dreadful the thought to a self-condemned sinner of,

1. His penetration in the discovery of sin, Ps. xliv. 20, 21; xc. 8; cxxxix. 1—5, 23.
2. His knowledge in weighing it, 1 Sam. ii. 3. Job xiv. 16, 17. Prov. xvi. 2.
3. His strictness in the remembrance of it, Ezek. xi. 5. Hos. vii. 2.
4. His holiness in the abhorrence of it, Job xv. 14—16. Hab. i. 13.
5. His justice in the condemnation of it, Exod. xxxiv. 7.

6. His power in the punishment of it, Rom. ix. 22. 2 Thess. i. 9.

O Lord, I would flee to thy Omniscience, terrible as it is, against the deceitfulness and lying flatteries of my own heart.

Search me, O God, and help me to search myself—  
That my heart may never condemn me, where it ought not;  
And may never fail to condemn me, where it ought.



### XLIII.

#### 1 JOHN iii. 21.

If our hearts condemn us not, then have we confidence towards God.

##### I. Our acquittal at the bar of conscience.

This will be experienced,

1. In the removal of guilt from the conscience, Heb. x. 2.
2. In the acting of the confidence of faith, Job xiii. 15, 16.
3. In the habitual exercise of supreme affection to God, Ps. xxvi. 1—3. John xxi. 17.
4. In the path of sincere and universal obedience, Job xxiii. 10, 11. 2 Cor. i. 12.
5. In the consciousness of the rectitude of our motives, 1 Cor. iv. 3, 4. 2 Cor. iv. 2.
6. In an appeal to God and man for the integrity of our conduct, 1 Sam. xii. 3. Job x. 7. 1 Thess. ii. 10.
7. In an habitual resistance of all, and especially of besetting sin, Ps. xvii. 3, 4; xviii. 20—24.

8. In a spirit of unfeigned and compassionate love, Rom. ix. 1—3. 1 John iii. 18, 19.
9. In the meek endurance and overcoming of injuries, Ps. vii. 3—5, 8.

In this acquittal of conscience, we shall not fail to enjoy,

## II. Confidence in the presence of God.

1. In gracious acceptance, Isa. xxxviii. 3—5.
2. In bold access to the throne of grace, Ps. lxvi. 18, 19. Heb. x. 22.
3. In the expectation to receive every needful blessing, Ps. xli. 12. 1 John iii. 22.
4. In the anticipation of the day of judgment, 1 John iv. 17.

That we may ensure to ourselves this inestimable privilege, let us

Beware, lest by resistance of its dictates the conscience become dull, 1 Tim. iv. 2.

Its voice weakened, Rom. xi. 8.

Its influence defiled, Tit. i. 15.

Its tenderness lost, Ps. cxix. 70. Eph. iv. 19.

Beware lest by ignorance of the Gospel it become erroneous, Matt. vi. 23. John xvi. 2, 3.

Misguided in its suggestions, Acts xxvi. 9. Rom. x. 2.

Unhumbled in its character, Rom. x. 3.

Partial in its operations, Matt. xv. 2—6; xxiii. 23, 24, John xviii. 27.

Beware lest by neglect of spiritual light it become scrupulous, Rom. xiv. 2.

Censorious upon unimportant points, Rom. xiv. 3, 4.

Perplexed respecting the path of duty, Rom. xiv. 22, 23.

Acting rather under the influence of feeling  
than of judgment, 1 Cor. viii. 4—7.  
Entangled in the yoke of legal bondage, Acts x.  
14. Col. ii. 21.

Learn to prize and cultivate the testimony of a  
good conscience, Acts xxiii. 1.

Sprinkled with the blood of Christ, Heb. ix. 14.  
Holding Christian doctrines in their practical  
influence, 1 Tim. i. 5, 6; iii. 9.

Distinguishing sins of infirmity from sins of  
indulgence, Rom. vii. 17—20.

Faithful to the first voice of conviction, Isa. xxx.  
21. Acts ix. 4—6.

Improving the measure of light afforded, John i.  
45—52. Acts x. 2—4.

Having equal respect to the laws of God and  
man, Acts xxiv. 16. 2 Cor. viii. 21.



#### XLIV.

##### PSALM ci. 2.

I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way.  
O when wilt thou come unto me? I will  
walk within my house with a perfect heart.

The presence of Christ in the soul is one of the  
precious promises of the new covenant, Lev. xxvi. 11,  
12. 2 Cor. vi. 16.

To the holy, lively, tender child of God the object  
of his panting desire (Text), Ps. lxxiii. 25.  
the matter of his exalted praise, Isa. xii. 6.  
Zeph. iii. 14, 15.

See him in the text, preparing his heart and house  
for the reception of his heavenly guest—

Walking with a perfect heart in a perfect way.

I. His heart perfect with God.

Cordially devoted to his service, 1 Kings xv.  
11—14.

Supremely desiring his presence, (Text).

Mature in the knowledge of the Gospel, 1 Cor.  
ii. 6. Heb. v. 14.

Making habitual progress towards the mark,  
Phil. iii. 12—15.

II. His way perfect before the world.

1. In his personal character.

Bridling his tongue, James iii. 2.

Circumspect in his conduct, (Text). 1 Sam.  
xviii. 14.

Entire in his obedience, Isa. xxxviii. 3. Col.  
iv. 12.

Walking as in the immediate presence of God,  
Gen. xvii. 1.

Abstaining from evil in the fear of God, Job i.  
1, 8.

2. In his family walk.

Discountenancing iniquity in his house, Gen.  
xxxv. 2. Ps. ci. 3—5, 7.

Honouring the people of God, Ps. ci. 6.

Instructing his family in the ways of God, Gen.  
xviii. 19.

Encouraging them by his own example, in the  
service of God, Jos. xxiv. 15.

Maintaining the daily worship of God in his  
house, Acts x. 2.

Conscientiously allowing time for religious duties,  
Deut. v. 14.

Such is the perfect man!

"Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no  
guile!" John i. 47.

His desire (Text) shall be abundantly fulfilled.  
The Lord will come to him

By his providence, to protect him from danger,  
2 Chron. xvi. 9.

By his word, to direct his conduct, 2 Tim. iii. 16, 17.

By his Spirit, to comfort his heart, John xiv.  
16—18, 23. 1 John iii. 24.

By his grace, to enable him for his service, Heb.  
xiii. 21.

By his cross, to prepare him for glory, 1 Pet.  
v. 10.

By his promises, to assure his hope, Job viii. 20.  
Prov. ii. 21.

In his end, to give him peace, Ps. xxxvii. 37.



## XLV.

### 2 CORINTHIANS iv. 1.

Therefore, seeing we have this ministry, as  
we have received mercy, we faint not.

There is much exercise of faintness in the work  
of God—

Yet is there abundant support to uphold from  
fainting.

I. What is there to induce us to faint?

1. An overwhelming sense of the importance of  
the work, Num. xi. 11—15. 2 Cor. ii. 15, 16.

2. A sense of unfitness for the work, Exod. iv.  
10. Jer. i. 6.

3. The indisposition of our people to hear the word, Exod. v. 20—23. Isa. liii. 1. Jer. xx. 7, 8.
4. The instability and inconsistency of professors, Gal. iv. 11—20. 2 Cor. xii. 20, 21.
5. Want of simplicity in our faith, 2 Kings iv. 29—31. Matt. xvii. 20.
6. Want of ardent affection for the work, Jon. i. 1, 2. Acts xiii. 13; xv. 38.

## II. What is there to keep us from fainting ?

1. The mercy received.  
So rich, 1 Tim. i. 12—14.  
So free, Acts ix. 13—15. 1 Cor. xv. 9, 10.  
Eph. iii. 8.  
So encouraging, 15, 16. 1 Tim. i. 16.  
So constraining, Isa. vi. 6—8. 1 Cor. xv. 10.  
2 Cor. v. 13, 14.
2. The ministry entrusted to us, 1 Cor. iv. 1.  
Of the New Testament, iii. 6.  
Of the Spirit, 6, 8.  
Of Righteousness, 9.  
Of increasing light and clearness, 12—16.  
Of liberty, 17.  
Of holiness, 18.

Let us be thankful for the furniture of this ministry, 2 Cor. iii. 6.

Let us guard against unfaithfulness in the discharge of it, 2. 1 Cor. iv. 2.

Let us exercise our ministry under the eye of our Divine Master, 2. v. 11. 1 Thess. ii. 4.

Let our whole ministry be concentrated in Christ, 5. 1 Cor. ii. 2.

Let it be deepened by the daily exercises of self-denial, 10. Mark ix. 28, 29.

Let it be quickened by the vigorous habit of faith,  
13. 1 John i. 1—3.

Let it be enlivened by the glorious prospect of  
the crown, 14, 16—18. 1 Thess. ii. 19, 20. Dan. xii.  
3. 1 Cor. iii. 18.

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## XLVI.

### HEBREWS iv. 2.

For unto us was the Gospel preached, as  
well as unto them ; but the word preached  
did not profit them, not being mixed with  
faith in them that heard it.

The word preached is the grand ordinance of God,  
Rom. x. 17. 1 Cor. i. 21.

In the hand of God mighty in operation, Ps. cx. 2.  
2 Cor. x. 4, 5. Heb. iv. 12.

Yet through our unbelief often unprofitable (Text).

#### I. When does the word not profit ?

1. When it does not separate the sinner from  
his sin, Mark vi. 20.
2. When it does not produce a change of  
conduct, Ezek. xxxiii. 32. James i. 22—24.
3. When its influence upon the heart is only  
transient, Matt. xiii. 20, 21.
4. When it fails to overcome the world, Ezek.  
xxxiii. 31. Matt. xiii. 22.
5. When it is heard merely for amusement,  
Ezek. xxxiii. 30.
6. When the mind is unsettled in the profession  
of the gospel, Eph. iv. 14. 2 Tim. iv. 3.

## II. Why doth it not profit ?

“ Not being mixed with faith,”

And therefore,

1. It is listened to without self-application,  
2 Sam. xii. 1—7.
2. It is not retained in the heart, Luke viii. 12.
3. It is heard as the word of man, 1 Thess. ii. 13.
4. The expectations of the soul are straitened,  
2 Cor. vi. 11.
5. The prejudices of the heart are excited, Matt. xiii. 54—58. John vi. 64—66.

Let me then inquire,

Is the word solidly united, mixed and incorporated  
with faith in my heart ?

Oh ! let me not be satisfied with the slight and  
transient taste of its sweetness ;

But let it be so inwardly digested in my daily  
experience, that it may have subsistence, power, and  
efficacy in my heart !

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## XLVII.

## LUKE viii. 8.

He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

The hearing that is profitable to salvation, is  
the hearing of faith, Rom. i. 16.

The hearing ear, as well as the seeing eye, is the  
work of God, Prov. xx. 12.

It is the heart opened by the Spirit of God, Acts  
xvi. 14.

Prepared for the reception of the word, Luke viii. 15.

**I. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear,**

1. With attention, as Lydia, Neh. viii. 3. Luke iv. 22; xix. 48. Acts xvi. 14.
2. With reverence, as the Jews, Neh. viii. 5, 6.
3. With humility, as Cornelius, Acts x. 33.
4. With tenderness, as Josiah, 2 Chron. xxxiv. 27. Neh. viii. 9. Isa. lxvi. 2.
5. With readiness and diligence, as the Bereans, Acts xvii. 11. 1 Thess. v. 21.
6. With simplicity, as the Thessalonians, 1 Thess. ii. 13.
7. With self-application, as the first converts, Acts ii. 37.
8. With hungering, as the Gentiles, Acts xiii. 42.
9. With obedience, as Samuel, 1 Sam. iii. 10.

**II. As the fruit of such hearing,**

1. Our souls will be quickened, Isa. lv. 3.
2. Faith will be produced, Acts iv. 4. Romans x. 17. Ephesians i. 13.
3. Our growth in grace will be promoted, Eph. iv. 11—13. 1 Tim. iv. 6. 1 Pet. ii. 2.
4. The Holy Spirit will be given, Gal. iii. 2, 5.
5. Conviction of sin will be wrought, Jer. xxxvi. 2, 3. 1 Cor. xiv. 24, 25.
6. Spiritual light will be increased, Luke viii. 18.
7. Our hearts will be comforted and supported, 1 Thess. i. 6.
8. Our obedience to the faith will be established, Romans vi. 17.

**But,**

Take heed how ye hear.

There are many dangers—many hindrances.

Take heed of

indulged sin, Micah ii. 7. James i. 21.

listlessness, Heb. v. 11.  
 offence, Luke xi. 44, 45. Gal. iv. 16.  
 fastidiousness, 1 Cor. iii. 3, 4. 2 Tim. iv. 3, 4.  
 instability, Prov. xxvii. 8. Acts xvii. 21. Eph.  
 iv. 14.  
 bodily drowsiness, Matt. xxvi. 40, 41.  
 dependence on man, 1 Cor. iii. 5.  
 unbelief, Luke viii. 12. Heb. iv. 2.  
 forgetfulness, Luke. ix. 44. 1 Cor. xv. 1, 2.  
 Heb. ii. 1—3.

O Lord, circumcise my ears, and my heart, that I  
 may not hear thy word unprofitably;

That I may greatly prize the privilege of hearing  
 it.

May I be aware of every hindrance !

And may every gracious disposition be hereby  
 excited and increased !

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### XLVIII.

#### 2 PETER iii. 18.

Grow in grace.

If you would be a holy, happy, fruitful Christian,  
 you must be a growing Christian. "Grow in grace."  
 Let us inquire,

I. What is the manner of growth in grace ?

It is,

1. Growth in the measure of grace, Mark iv.  
 21. 1 Thess. iv. 9, 10. 1 John ii. 12—14.
2. Growth in the exercise of grace, Matt. xxv.  
 16, 17. 2 Tim. ii. 1.
3. Growth in the fruitfulness of grace, Phil. i.  
 11. 2 Thess. i. 3. 2 Peter i. 5—9.

## II. What are the evidences of growth in grace ?

1. Growth in the knowledge of the Gospel, 2 Pet. iii. 18.
2. Habitual progress in the ways of God, Job xvii. 9. Ps. lxxxiv. 7. Proverbs iv. 18. Phil. iii. 12—14. Rev. ii. 19.
3. Steady consistency of walk and conversation, 1 Thess. iv. 1.
4. Enlarged devotedness to the work of God, 1 Cor. xv. 58.
5. Increasing boldness in the profession of the Gospel, Matt. xxvi. 56. Acts iv. 13, 19, 20 ; v. 29.
6. Victory over besetting sin, John iii. 2 ; vii. 50, 51 ; xix. 39.
7. Deepened exercises of humility, Job xxvii. 2—6 ; xl. 4 ; xlii. 5, 6.
8. Discriminating love for divine things, Phil. i. 9. Heb. v. 14.
9. More spiritual perception of the path of duty, Col. i. 9.

## III. What are the peculiar hindrances to growth in grace ?

1. Self-indulgence, 1 Kings xi. 1—6.
2. Neglect of religious advantages, Heb. v. 11, 12.
3. Want of brotherly love, 1 Cor. iii. 1—4.
4. Allowance of false doctrine, Gal. iii. 3, 4 ; iv. 9—11 ; v. 7, 8. Rev. ii. 14, 15, 20.
5. Forgetfulness of early impressions, Rev. ii. 4.
6. Lukewarmness of spirit, Rev. iii. 15.
7. Undue connection with the world, Hos. vii. 8, 9.
8. Neglect of the throne of grace, James iv. 2.

## IV. What are the means of growth in grace ?

1. Abiding in Christ, John xv. 5 ; x. 10.
2. The ministry and ordinances of the Gospel, Ps. xcii. 13, 14. Eph. iv. 11, 12. Col. i. 6.
3. Appetite for the word of God, 1 Pet. ii. 2.
4. Watchful and persevering diligence, Isa. xl. 31. Heb. vi. 11.
5. Increasing knowledge of the Saviour, 2 Pet. iii. 18.
6. The improvement of affliction, John xv. 2.
7. The outpouring of the Spirit upon the soul, Isa. xliv. 3, 4. Hos. xiv. 5—7.
8. Walking in the fear of God, Mal. iv. 2.

## V. What are the fruits of growth in grace ?

1. The glory of God, John xv. 8. Phil. i. 11.
2. The encouragement of his people, Ps. xcii. 14, 15.
3. The stability of our Christian profession, 1 Thess. iii. 12, 13. 2 Pet. i. 5—10 ; iii. 17, 18.
4. The assurance of our hope of glory, 2 Pet. i. 11.

What marks do I perceive, upon serious inquiry into my state, of growth in grace ?

Is there uniformity in my growth ?

If I can assure my heart before God, that some advance has been made, is it accompanied with a deeper consciousness of my shortcomings, so that the language of my experience is—" Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect ? " Phil. iii. 12.



## XLIX.

## 2 PETER iii. 18.

And in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The knowledge of Christ is the principle of eternal life in the soul, John xvii. 3.

It is the supreme desire of the child of God, Phil. iii. 10.

That the children of God may attain their Christian stature, Eph. iv. 13—

Growth in grace is invariably accompanied by growth in this knowledge, 2 Pet. iii. 18.

I. Growth in the knowledge of Jesus Christ implies,  
Enlarged views of Scriptural truth, Acts xviii.  
25, 26. Eph. i. 18, 19. Col. ii. 2. Heb. vi. 1.  
Deeper comprehension of the love of Christ, Eph.  
iii. 18, 19.

Continual exercises of dependence on him, Eph.  
iv. 15. Col. ii. 6, 7.

More established faith in the warrant of the  
Gospel, 2 Tim. i. 12. 1 John v. 13.

A more practical exhibition of the Gospel, Eph.  
iv. 20—24. 2 Pet. i. 5—8.

II. The means of obtaining growth in knowledge,  
are,

The teaching of the Spirit, Matt. xvi. 16, 17.  
John xvi. 14, 15. 1 Cor. xii. 3. 1 John ii.  
20; v. 20.

Consciousness of our low attainments, Phil. iii.  
12—15.

Perseverance in the ways of God, Hos. vi. 3.  
John viii. 31, 32.

Diligence in secret prayer, Acts x. 30, 32.  
The serious hearing and study of the word, Ps. cxix. 98, 99, 104. 1 Tim. iv. 6.  
Cultivation of heart-religion, Prov. xvi. 23.  
Intercourse and communion with experienced Christians, Acts xviii. 24—26.

III. The fruits of this growth in knowledge will be found in

Established hope of acceptance, Col. i. 21—23.  
Christian steadfastness of profession, Eph. iv. 13—16.  
Increased peace of mind, 2 Pet. i. 2.  
Supply of all needful blessings, 2 Pet. i. 3.  
Increased usefulness in our appointed sphere, Acts xviii. 26—28.  
Increased devotedness in the service of God, Isa. vi. 5—8.  
Increased meetness for heaven, 2 Cor. iii. 18.

O Lord, I thank thee, that thou hast in any measure revealed thy Son in me. May increased knowledge of him in his offices and character, bring increased love to him;

That he may dwell in my heart, and that I may set him forth to the Church—"This is my Beloved, and this is my Friend." Cant. v. 16.



## L.

### JOHN xiv. 16.

And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.

As the Saviour was the promised blessing under the Old Testament dispensation, John v. 39;

So the Holy Spirit is the distinguishing blessing of the New Testament covenant, Acts ii. 38, 39.

The representative of the Saviour's presence, John xiv. 18.

The fruit of his intercession, Acts ii. 33.

Consider,

**I. His person.**

Proceeding from the Father and the Son, John xv. 26; xx. 22. Rev. xxii. 1.

One with the Father and the Son, Matt. xxviii. 19. 2 Cor. xiii. 14. Rev. i. 4, 5.

Very and eternal God, Job xxxiii. 4. Acts v. 3, 4. 1 Cor. ii. 11.

**II. His offices.**

To convince the heart of sin, Isa. iv. 4. Acts ii. 36, 37. John xvi. 8, 9.

To guide into all truth, Neh. ix. 20. Ps. cxliii. 10. John xiv. 26; xvi. 13. 1 Cor. ii. 10, 12. Eph. i. 17. 1 John ii. 20, 27.

To glorify the Saviour, John xv. 26; xvi. 14, 15. Acts x. 43, 44. 1 Cor. xii. 3. 1 John v. 6. Rev. xix. 10.

To dwell in the hearts of his people, Rom. viii. 9. 1 Cor. iii. 16; vi. 19.

To abide in them for ever, Isa. lix. 21. (Text) iv. 14.

**III. His influences.**

1. Life, John vi. 63.

To quicken our souls, Ezek. xxxvii. 5—10. John iii. 5. 2 Cor. iii. 6. Tit. iii. 5.

To revive our graces, Cant. iv. 16. Rev. i. 4.

To constrain our devotedness to God, Isa. xliv. 3—5.

To make us fruitful in holiness, Isa. xxxii. 15. Ezek. xxxvi. 27. Rom. viii. 5, 6. 1 Cor. vi. 11. Gal. v. 22, 23. Eph. v. 9.

To promote our growth in grace, Hos. xiv. 5—7.

2. Power, Luke xxiv. 49.

To apply the word to the heart, Acts ii. 37. Rom. xv. 18, 19. 1 Cor. ii. 4. 1 Thess. i. 5.

To enable us for a bold confession of Christ, Acts iv. 7—13. 2 Tim. i. 7, 8.

To strengthen us for our spiritual conflict, Isa. lix. 19. Rom. viii. 13. Gal. v. 16. Eph. iii. 16.

To qualify us for important services, Num. xi. 17. Hag. ii. 4, 5. Zech. iv. 6. 1 Cor. xii. 6—11.

To give us liberty in our Christian walk, Ps. li. 12. 2 Cor. iii. 17.

To over-rule all events for our good, Phil. i. 19.

To transform us into the Saviour's likeness, 2 Cor. iii. 18.

To raise us up at the last day, Rom. viii. 11.

3. Comfort. (Text.)

To teach us to pray, Zech. xii. 10. Rom. viii. 26. Gal. iv. 6. Eph. ii. 18; vi. 18. Phil. iii. 3. Jude 20.

To enliven our hopes, Rom. xv. 13.

To assure our adoption into the family of God, Rom. viii. 9, 14—16. 1 John iii. 24; iv. 13.

To rejoice and support our hearts, Acts ix.

31; xiii. 52. Rom. xiv. 17. 1 Thess. i. 6.  
1 Pet. iv. 14.

To seal us to the day of redemption, 2 Cor. i.  
22; v. 5. Eph. i. 13; iv. 30.

To enable us to wait for complete salvation,  
Rom. viii. 23. Gal. v. 5.

**4. Love, 2 Tim. i. 7.**

Shedding abroad the love of God in the heart,  
Rom. v. 5. 2 Thess. iii. 5.

Filling the heart with love to the brethren,  
Acts iv. 31, 32. Col. i. 8. 1 Pet. i. 22.

Enabling us to edify one another, Eph. v.  
18, 19.

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**1. Beware of losing this blessing, Gen. vi. 3.**  
By resistance, Isa. lxiii. 10. Acts vii. 51. 1  
Thess. v. 19. Heb. x. 29.  
By neglect, Matt. xxv. 8. Eph. iv. 30. 1 Tim.  
iv. 14.

**2. Expect the blessing,**  
In answer to prayer, Ezek. xxxvi. 27, 31.  
Luke xi. 13.

In the spirit of contrition, Prov. i. 23.  
In the exercise of faith, John vii. 38, 39.  
Gal. iii. 2, 5, 14.

In the habit of obedience, Acts v. 32.

**3. Improve it,**  
In a spiritual walk and conversation, Gal. v. 25.  
In active dependent exercise, 2 Tim. i. 6, 7.  
In a steadfast profession, 2 Tim. i. 14.

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## LI.

## JEREMIAH xxix. 13.

And ye shall seek me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

I. What is the disposition of mind here intended?

It is not lip-service, Jer. iii. 10. Ezek. xxxiii. 31.  
Matt. xv. 8.

indolence, Cant. iii. 1.

impatience, 2 Kings vi. 33.

But it is a heart perfect with God, 2 Chron. xvi. 9; xv. 17.

steadily fixed on God, Ps. cviii. 1. Isa. xxvi. 8, 9.

It is the earnestness of Jacob, Gen. xxxii. 24—28.  
the confidence of David, Ps. xxvii. 7—14.

the perseverance of the woman of Canaan,  
Matt. xv. 22.

the importunity of the widow, Luke xviii. 3—5. (See Isa. lxii. 6, 7.)

II. What is the blessing promised?

Ye shall find me, 2 Chron. xv. 2, 4, 15. Isa. xlvi. 19. Matt. vii. 7, 8.

1. In time of contrition, Deut. iv. 29. Jer. iii. 22. Hos. xiv. 2, 4.

2. In time of affliction, Ps. l. 15.

3. In time of perplexity, 2 Chron. xx. 12.

4. In *every* time, Heb. iv. 16.

Let every sin be mortified, Ps. lxvi. 18.

Let the heart be prepared, 2 Chron. xix. 3.

Let the assistance of the Spirit be sought, Rom. viii. 26. Eph. vi. 18. Jude 20.

## LII.

## MATTHEW xvi. 3.

Can ye not discern the signs of the times ?

Let the glory of the latter days be the object of our prayerful and earnest expectation, Rom. viii. 21.

Let us watch the dawning indications of these days, in the signs of the present times.

I. These signs appear to be,

Novel opinions in religion, Mark xiii. 21—23.

A spirit of inquiry into prophecy, Dan. xii. 4.

The universal circulation of the word of God, Rev. xiv. 6, 7.

The general preaching of the gospel, Mark xxiv. 14.

A spirit of compassion for the Jews, Ps. cii. 13, 14.

The preparation of the world for their conversion, Rom. xi. 25, 26.

The success granted to missionary exertions, Isa. xlix. 6—12.

The support afforded by Christian rulers to the extension of the gospel, Isa. xlix. 23.

The readiness manifested by Christians to dedicate their substance to the service of God, Isa. lx. 6, 9.

General co-operation in the cause of God, Isa. lx. 13.

The subserviency of commerce and navigation to the preaching of the gospel, Isa. lx. 9 ; xviii.\*

\* Comp. Bishop Horsley on Isa. xviii. The first word is there translated *Ho*, as in Isa. lv. 1, and the whole may be considered as the divine commission to the maritime nation alluded to.

The convulsions of empires, Luke xxi. 25, 26.  
 The proud independence of judgment, 2 Tim. iii. 1, 4.  
 A wide spread of infidel principles, 2 Pet. iii. 3, 4.  
 The combined efforts of popery and infidelity, Rev. xvi. 13.  
 The decline of the Mahomedan power, Rev. xvi. 12.  
 The extension of the British empire, and commission given to her, Isa. xviii.

II. The importance of discerning these signs of the times,

By their use,  
 In enabling us to mark the hand of God, Isa. xli. 18—20.  
 In throwing light upon the path of duty, 1 Chron. xii. 32.  
 In awakening us to increased activity, Isa. lx. 1 ; lxii. 10, 11.  
 In exciting to the various exercises of Christian love, Heb. x. 24, 25.  
 In raising us above the world, Phil. iv. 5. 1 Pet. iv. 7.  
 In exciting our prayers, Ezek. xxxvi. 25—37. Dan. ix. 2, 3. Zech. viii. 20—23. Matt. vi. 10. Luke xviii. 7, 8. Rev. xxii. 20.  
 In preparing us for the coming of the Saviour, Rev. i. 3 ; xvi. 15.

1. Beware of presumptuous boldness in prying into unrevealed secrets, Mark xiii. 32. Acts i. 7.
2. Guard against listless indifference, and neglecting to look for the Lord's coming, Isa. xxi. 11, 12. Luke ii. 28—38. 2 Pet. i. 19.

3. Search the Scriptures diligently to inquire into the signs of the times, Dan. ix. 2.

4. Beware of misapplying the prophetical Scriptures according to dictates of fancy, inclination, or system, 2 Pet. i. 20.

5. Be encouraged by the promise of light and acceptance in this search, Rev. i. 3.



### LIII.

#### HEBREWS iv. 3.

We which have believed do enter into rest.

Must the believer wait for heaven to know the blessing of rest?

His inheritance is not all in reversion.

There is an earnest and a present possession of it realized by faith.

“We which have believed do enter into rest”—the rest of faith.

#### I. What is faith?

1. It is knowledge, Phil. iii. 10.

2. It is apprehension, Ps. lxiii. 8. Cant. iii. 4.  
Phil. iii. 12.

3. It is reliance, Isa. xxvi. 3, 4; 1. 10.

#### Illustrated

By Noah entering into the ark, Gen. vii. 1—7.  
Heb. xi. 7.

The Israelite looking to then braze serpent,  
Numb. xxi. 6—9. Isa. xlvi. 22. John iii.  
14, 15.

The man-slayer fleeing to the city of refuge,  
Numb. xxxv. 9—28. Heb. vi. 18.

The Church leaning on her Beloved, Cant. viii. 5.  
 The Spouse listening to his voice, Cant. ii. 8—10. Rev. iii. 20.

The willing soul receiving the Saviour, John i. 12. Col. ii. 6.

The weary soul resting upon him, Jer. vi. 16. Matt. xi. 28.

The needy soul drawing from his fulness, John i. 16.

The hungry and thirsty soul feeding upon him, John vi. 35, 51—56.

The conflicting soul overcoming his discouragements, Matt. xv. 22—28.

The rejoicing soul established in him, Hab. iii. 17, 18.

The soul in present possession receiving eternal life, John iii. 36; vi. 47. 1 John v. 11, 12.

The soul in patience of hope waiting for his coming, 1 Cor. i. 7. 1 Thess. i. 10. Rev. xxi. 20.

Each varied exercise of faith thus described brings rest to the soul.

## II. What is the rest of faith?

It implies,

A deliverance from the curse of the law, Rom. viii. 33, 34.

A covering from the temptations of Satan, Isa. xxv. 4. Eph. vi. 16.

Redemption from the dominion of sin, Rom. vi. 14.

A sense of reconciliation with God. Rom. v. 1.

Reception of the yoke of Christ, Matt. xi. 29.

Acquiescence in the dispensations of Providence,

Lev. x. 3. 1 Sam. iii. 18. 2 Sam. xv. 25,  
26. 2 Kings iv. 26. Job i. 21.

Composure under the reproach of the world,  
Job v. 21. Ps. xxxi. 9, 20.

Quietness from fear of evil, Ps. xciv. 13 ; cxii.  
7. Prov. i. 33. Isa. xxxii. 17—19.

Confidence in the prospect of eternity, Ps. xxiiii.  
4 ; xl. 15. Acts vii. 57—60. 2 Tim. i. 12.

Let us labour to enter into this rest, 11.

Let us fear even to seem to come short of it, 1.

Let us guard against self-righteousness, as tending  
to rob us of it, 10.

Let us beware of wilful unbelief, as shutting us  
out of it, iii. 19.

Let us quicken our souls to a more habitual enjoy-  
ment of it, Ps. cxvi. 7.

Let us be encouraged under the conflict and imper-  
fection of the rest of faith with the prospect of the  
final and complete rest of heaven, Deut. xii. 9. Ps.  
lv. 5—8.

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#### LIV.

#### HEBREWS iv. 9.

There remaineth therefore a rest for the  
people of God.

The rest of faith, though glorious in itself, yet,  
"hath no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory  
which excelleth." It is but an *entering* into rest.

The full possession is reserved for heaven.

"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of  
God."

## I. Heaven is a rest,

## 1. From temporal trouble.

From care and labour, Isa. lvii. 1, 2. Rev. xiv. 13.

From pain and sickness, Isa. xxxiii. 24. Rev. xxi. 4.

From sorrow and sighing, Isa. xxxv. 10; lx. 20.

From want, Luke xvi. 20—22. Rev. vii. 16, 17.

From change, 2 Cor. v. 1. 1 John ii. 17. Rev. iii. 12.

## 2. From spiritual conflict.

From the accusations of Satan, Rev. xii. 10.

From the condemnation of conscience, Rev. xiv. 5.

From the reproach and persecution of the world, Isa. xxv. 8. 2 Thess. i. 7.

From the curse of sin, Rev. xxii. 3.

From the defilement of sin, Eph. v. 27. 2 Pet. iii. 13. Rev. xxi. 27.

From the body of sin, Rom. viii. 23. 1 Cor. xv. 54. 2 Cor. v. 2—4.

## 3. In the enjoyment of God,

In the work of his praise, Rev. iv. 8; v. 9—13.

In the service of his temple, Rev. vii. 15; xxii. 3.

In the beholding of his face, Ps. xvii. 15. John xvii. 24. 1 Cor. xiii. 12. 1 John iii. 2. Rev. xxii. 4.

In conformity to his image, Phil. iii. 21. 1 John iii. 2.

In his constant presence, Ps. xvi. 11. Isa. lx. 19. John xiv. 3. 1 Thess. iv. 17. Rev. vii. 15; xxi. 3.

II. The rest of heaven remaineth to the people of God,

- As a support in trouble, John xiv. 1—3. 2  
Cor. iv. 17, 18.
- As a hope in conflict, Rom. viii. 23, 24. 1  
Thess. v. 8. 2 Tim. iv. 7, 8. Heb. vi. 19, 20.
- As a ground for present rejoicing, Rom. v. 2.  
Heb. x. 34, 35.
- As contrasted with the portion of this world,  
Ps. xvii. 14, 15. Luke xvi. 25.
- As tending to wean our hearts from the world,  
Col. iii. 1—4. Heb. xi. 13—16, 26.
- As exciting us to increased diligence in the  
service of God, Rom. xiii. 11.
- As sustaining us in the endurance of persecu-  
tion, Matt. v. 10—12. James i. 12.

Let us be careful,

- To prove our title to this rest, Col. i. 27. 2  
Pet. i. 10, 11.
- To evidence our meetness for it, 2 Cor. v. 4,  
5. Col. i. 9—12. 1 Thess. ii. 11, 12.
- To seek the earnest of it in the rest of faith,  
verse 3.
- To exercise confidence in the prospect of it,  
Ps. lxxiii. 24—26. Heb. vi. 11, 12.
- To be hastening towards the full possession of it,  
Phil. i. 23. Tit. ii. 13. Heb. vi. 11, 12. 2  
Pet. iii. 12. Rev. xxii. 20.
- To go on our way with joy and praise, 1 Pet.  
i. 3—5.



## LV.

## ROMANS iii. 21—26.\*

21. When man fell from God, the way of access was closed, Gen. iii. 24.

When Christ died, a new and living way was opened, Matt. xxvii. 51. Heb. x. 19, 20.

It is a way of *righteousness*—

As magnifying the claims of the Divine law, Isa. xlvi. 21.

Satisfying Divine justice, Job xxxviii. 24.

And therefore the ground on which God is righteous in his mercy and grace, 26.

It is *the righteousness of God*—

As appointed by God, Isa. liii. 10. 2 Cor. v. 21. Heb. x. 5—10.

Fulfilled by God, Phil. ii. 6—8.

Accepted of God, Matt. iii. 17. Eph. v. 2.

It is *without the law*—

Independent of the righteousness of the law, Rom. iv. 5.

Opposed to the righteousness of the law, Rom. ix. 32; x. 5—8. Phil. iii. 9.

Delivering from the claims of the law, 20. Gal. iii. 10—13.

It was obscurely represented to the Old Testament Church, Heb. ix. 8.

But it is now manifested, John xiv. 6.

But though it was “without the law”—

Yet was it *witnessed by the law*—

The moral law showing the need of it, Gal. iii. 23, 24.

\* The writer adds the following as a study upon a connected portion of Scripture.

The ceremonial law shadowing it forth, Lev. xvi. Heb. x. 1—14.

Both combining to exhibit the end of it, Rom. x. 4.

*And the prophets—*

Testifying of Christ, Luke xxiv. 44. Acts iii. 24; x. 43. 1 Pet. i. 10—12. Rev. xix. 10.

As a prophet, Deut. xviii. 15—18.

As a priest, Ps. cx. 4. Zech. vi. 13.

As a king, Ps. ii. 6; xlv. 1. Zech. ix. 9.

22. The medium of receiving this “righteousness of God is *by faith*,” 25. Phil. iii. 9.

The object of this faith is *Jesus Christ*, 26. Acts xvi. 31.

The righteousness is *unto all them that believe*—as a gift, Rom. v. 17.

It is *upon them also*—as a robe, Isa. lxi. 10.

*For there is no difference* in age, nation, or circumstance, Rom. x. 12. Gal. iii. 28. Col. iii. 11.

23. *For all have sinned*, and therefore alike need it, 9—12. Gal. iii. 22.

*And, as sinners, have come short of the end of their creation—the glory of God*, Ps. xlix. 20. Eccl. vii. 29.

24. But the remedy provided is fully commensurate with the need.

It is rich—providing justification and every consequent blessing—

*Being justified*, Acts xiii. 38, 39. Rom. v. 1, 2.

It is free—offering it, irrespective of merit—

*Freely by his grace*, Eph. ii. 5—8. Tit. iii. 5.

It is sure—as being purchased at a price that has fully satisfied all the claims of God and his law—

*Through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*  
 2 Cor. v. 19. Col. i. 20.

25. The ground of this remedy is—  
 The exalted dignity of the person—*Whom*, Phil. ii. 6—8. Col. i. 14—17.  
 The supreme authority of the proposer—*God hath set forth*, Ps. lxxxix. 19. Isa. xxviii. 16.  
 The remedy itself is “Christ Jesus set forth” to be a propitiation, Gen. viii. 21. Lev. xvi. 13. Isa. lxxi. 5. Eph. ii. 14—17. Rev. v. 9.  
 The means by which it is applied, is *through faith in his blood*—  
 Enabling us to behold its merit, John i. 29.  
 To trust in its sufficiency, Lev. xvi. 21.  
 To receive its benefit, John iii. 14, 15.  
 The immediate end of its appointment was to declare his righteousness (or justice) in the remission of sins that are past through the forbearance of God, Heb. ix. 15.

26. *To declare it, at this time*—  
 Which his purposes had fixed, Rom. v. 6. Gal. iv. 4.  
 Which his forbearance had from the beginning anticipated, 1 Pet. i. 20. Rev. xiii. 8.  
 The ultimate end of this appointment was—  
 The vindication of his own honour, *that he might be just*, 25. Exod. xxxiv. 7.  
 The consistent exercise of his mercy—and the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus, Ps. lxxxv. 10. Isa. xlvi. 21. 1 John i. 9.  
 The whole exhibits an harmonious display of the character of God, 1 John i. 5; iv. 8.  
 1. For the conviction of the self-righteous—  
 Exhibiting him as a just God, 25, 26.

Demanding a righteousness independent of the law, 21.  
Accessible only by faith, 22, 25, 26.  
2. For the encouragement of the trembling sinner.  
Giving a cheering view of the justice of God—  
The object of his hope instead of his  
fear—  
Exercised in his pardon instead of his  
punishment, } 26.  
3. For the establishment of the believer—  
In his thankfulness for a full and free  
salvation, 24.  
In contemplating the strength of his own  
foundation, 25.

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## LVI.

JOHN v. 39.

Search the Scriptures ; for in them ye think ye have eternal life ; and they are they which testify of Me.

Delight in this command of our Lord—marks the pulse and health of the soul—

So truly is our obligation identified with our privilege.

Indolence is roused ; prayer is quickened ; the path of light, and joy, and holiness, is here set out before us—

“Search the Scriptures.”

I. Why should we search the Scriptures ?

As the testimony of Christ, Text ; 46. Luke xxiv. 44. Acts x. 43. Rev. xix. 10.

- As the depository of the doctrine of eternal life, Text; xx. 31.
- As the directory of our daily conduct, Ps. xix. 11; cxix. 9, 105. Prov. vi. 23.
- As the test and trial of sound doctrine, Isa. viii. 20. 1 Thess. v. 21. 1 John iv. 1.
- As the means of moulding our Christian character, Rom. vi. 17. 2 Cor. iii. 18.
- As the treasure-house of the promises, 2 Cor. vii. 1. 2 Pet. i. 4.
- As the food and comfort of the soul, Job xxiii. 12. Ps. xix. 10; cxix. 103. Jer. xv. 16. 1 Pet. ii. 2.
- As the rule of final judgment, John xii. 48. Rev. xx. 12.

**II. How shall we search?**

- With deep reverence, Ps. cxix. 161. 1 Thess. ii. 13.
- With child-like humility, Ps. xxv. 9. Matt. xi. 25; xviii. 3, 4. James i. 21.
- With strict impartiality, Acts xvii. 11.
- With simple faith, 1 Thess. ii. 13. 2 Tim. iii. 15. Heb. iv. 2.
- With earnest prayer, Ps. cxix. 18. Prov. ii. 3.
- With constant diligence, Deut. vi. 6—9. Prov. ii. 2, 4.
- With careful self-application, Heb. iv. 12.
- With daily meditation, Ps. i. 2; cxix. 97—99, 148. Jer. xv. 16.

**III. Mark the blessed results of this search—**

- Established faith, Acts xvii. 12. 1 John v. 13.
- Christian support, Ps. cxix. 50, 92. Rom. xv. 4.
- Abounding fruitfulness, Ps. i. 2, 3. 2 Tim. iii. 17.
- Heavenly and saving wisdom, Ps. xix. 7, 8;

cxix. 97—100, 132. Prov. ii. 4, 5. 2 Tim. iii. 15.

Growth in grace, 1 Pet. ii. 2.

Extended views of the kingdom of Christ, Isa. xxxiv. 16. Dan. ix. 2. 2 Pet. i. 19. Rev. i. 3.

Let us remember that we are *commanded* to search, Text.

Let our search embrace the whole compass of Scripture, Rom. xv. 4. 2 Tim. iii. 16.

Let us compare the different parts with each other, 1 Cor. ii. 13.

Let us realize our constant dependence upon Divine teaching, John vi. 45; xvi. 13.

Let us plead a personal interest in the full heritage of Scripture, Jos. i. 5. Heb. xiii. 5.

Let us supply the warnings of Scripture for the exercise of godly fear, Rom. xi. 20. 1 Cor. x. 11, 12. Heb. iv. 1.

Let us exhibit its holy influence upon our whole profession, Phil. ii. 15, 16. James iii. 13.



## LVII.

### PSALM cxix. 9.

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto, according to thy word.

“Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?” Job xiv. 4; xxv. 4.

Born in sin (Ps. li. 5)—“called a transgressor from the womb,” (Isa. xlvi. 8.)

I. The "way of a young man" needs "cleansing,"  
For it is by nature

A vain and foolish way, Job i. 4, 5. Prov. xxii.  
15. Eccl. xi. 10.

A corrupt and sinful way, Gen. viii. 21. Jer.  
ii. 25.

A proud and perverse way, 1 Kings xii. 8—15.  
Jer. xxii. 21.

An unsteady and slippery way, 2 Chron. xxiv.  
2, 17. Prov. vii. 6—8.

A self-willed and ruinous way, Prov. vii. 7, 22,  
23; xxix. 15. Luke xv. 12—16.

II. The Word is the Divinely-appointed instrument  
of "cleansing," John xv. 3. Eph. v. 26.

It guides to a cleansing fountain, Zech. xiii. 1.  
1 John i. 7.

It applies the principles of holy truth, John xvii.  
17. 1 Pet. i. 22.

It cleanses by the virtue of its precious promises,  
2 Cor. vii. 1. 2 Pet. i. 4.

Its heavenly hopes purify the whole man, 1 John  
iii. 2, 3.

Does the young man feel his need of "cleansing"?  
Does he desire, is he seeking, this inestimable  
blessing?

III. Let him "take heed to his way, according to  
this word,"

Humbled for the sins of youth, Ps. xxv. 7.

Fleeing youthful lusts, 2 Tim. ii. 22. Gen. xxxix.  
9, 10.

Separate from a defiling world, Dan. i. 8.

Seeking the direction of Divine wisdom, 1 Kings  
iii. 7—9.

Walking in the fear and service of God, 1 Sam. ii.

18—26. 1 Kings xviii. 12. 1 Chron. xxviii. 9. 2  
Chron. xxxiv. 3. Eccl. xii. 1.

Steadfastly continuing in the instruction of God,  
Ps. lxxi. 17. 2 Tim. i. 5 ; iii. 14, 15.

Standing boldly on the side of God's word, Dan. iii.  
16—18.

Obedient to the discipline of youth, Exod. xx. 12.  
Luke ii. 51. Lam. iii. 27.

Cheered by the encouragement of the word, Prov.  
viii. 17. Jer. iii. 4.

Warned by the prospect of the approaching judg-  
ment, Eccl. xi. 9.

Order my steps in thy word, and let not any iniquity  
have dominion over me, 133.

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might  
not sin against thee, 11.



## LVIII.

### COLOSSIANS iii. 1.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those  
things which are above, where Christ sitteth  
on the right hand of God.

As the Head is risen from the grave, the members  
are risen with him, ii. 13. Eph. ii. 6.

Therefore, all the members of Christ have a part  
and interest in his whole work, ii. 12.

That is,

They are dead with him to sin, 3 ; ii. 12. Rom.  
vi. 4. 2 Tim. ii. 12.

They have his Divine life in their souls, 3. Gal.  
ii. 20.

They have a right with him to eternal life, John xiv. 19. Eph. ii. 6.

Their obligation, therefore, is, to seek those things which are above.

That is,

To set heavenly things foremost, Text; 2. Matt. vi. 33.

To mortify indwelling corruption, 4, 5.

To be continually ascending with Christ in heart and mind, Phil. iii. 20.

To look forward to dwell with him for ever, John xiv. 3; xvii. 24. 1 Thess. iv. 17.

Seek then to live up to your high privilege, as no longer a citizen of this world. Take your place continually as a member of your risen Head, "sitting together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Nothing like this will deaden the world and sin to you, give wings to faith, and produce conformity to the image of your blessed Lord.

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## LIX.

### REVELATION xxii. 17.

And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

See how the word of God closes with this gracious invitation to a perishing world to come to Christ.

Both the Spirit and the Church unite in pleading with sinners.

All who are athirst may come. Isa. lv. 1. John vii. 37.

That is,

All who earnestly desire him, Isa. xxvi. 8.

All who diligently seek him, Ps. xxvii. 4.

All who are ready to part with everything for him, Matt. xiii. 44—46.

Jesus invites them to come.

He waits for their coming, Rev. iii. 20.

He draws them to come, Hos. xi. 4. John xii. 32.

He accepts them when they come, John vi. 37.

Do you feel your inability to come? John vi. 44.

Do you feel your unwillingness to come? John v. 40.

Do you acknowledge the sovereignty of God in drawing you? John vi. 65.

Are you depending upon him to make you willing? Ps. cx. 3. Cant. i. 4.

O then, seek, that every sound of the Gospel, every ordinance, every providence, every means of grace, may draw you to Christ.

Be continually coming, every day, every hour, every moment.

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## LX.

### JOHN vi. 27.

Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man will give you, for him hath God the Father sealed.

The meat which perisheth is the world and the things of the world, 1 Cor. vii. 29—31.

When our Saviour says, Labour not for these things,  
He means,

Do not set your hearts upon them, Luke xii.  
18, 19.

Do not be needlessly anxious about them, Luke  
x. 41; xii. 22—31.

Do not follow them to the neglect of your soul,  
1 Tim. vi. 9. Matt. xvi. 26.

The meat that endureth is the blessing of Christ  
and his salvation, 50.

To labour for this meat, is

To believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, ver. 29.

To make sure your interest in his Gospel, 2 Pet.  
i. 10.

To work out your salvation, Phil. ii. 12.

Remember,

This labour must be the first care, Matt. vi. 33.

You cannot be too earnest for this blessing, Matt.  
xi. 12. Luke xiii. 24.

Yet all your labour cannot purchase it, Eph. ii. 8.

You must receive it as the free gift of Christ,  
Text. Isa. lv. 1.

You must believe in him as commissioned to  
bestow this gift, Text.



## LXI.

### JAMES iv. 7.

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Remembering the power, (Eph. ii. 2,) malice, (Job  
i. 6, 7,) craft, (Gen. iii. 1,) and cruelty, (1 Pet. v. 8,)  
of this enemy of God and man; remembering that

he is ever seeking your ruin, (Luke xxii. 31,) and fears only lest you should believe, and be saved, (Luke viii. 12,)—

How needful is the exhortation !

I. Resist the devil,

In a sense of your own utter weakness, 2 Chron. xx. 12.

In continual dependence on the blood of atonement, Rev. xii. 11.

Regarding him by faith as a conquered enemy, Gen. iii. 15. Col. ii. 15.

Expecting the support of your mighty Deliverer, Luke xi. 21, 22. Heb. ii. 18.

Not parleying with his suggestions, Gen. iii. 1—6.

But answering them with the written word, Matt. iv. 1—11. Eph. vi. 17.

Guarding against his attacks at every point, 2 Cor. ii. 11 ; vi. 7.

Covering yourself with the shield of faith, Eph. vi. 16. 1 Pet. v. 9.

Betaking yourself to watchful and persevering prayer, Eph. vi. 18. Matt. xxvi. 41.

So resisting, habitually, perseveringly, and prayerfully,

II. He will flee from you.

His power will be weakened, Isa. lix. 19.

His malice disappointed, Mic. vii. 8.

The habit of conquering faith will be confirmed, Rom. viii. 33.

Your ultimate strength assured, Rom. viii. 35—39 ; xvi. 20.

O Lord, my strength, my rock, my high tower

against the adversary, only give and increase faith in thine almighty and faithful power and promises, and I shall not fear even the subtlety, cruelty, malice, or power of him who is both thine enemy and mine. But oh, give me more wisdom to discern his devices, more self-distrust in resisting them, and a more habitual overcoming by the power of that manifestation of thy dear Son in his life and death, by which he destroyed the power of the devil.

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## LXII.

## PSALM xxvii. 8.

When thou saidst, Seek ye my face ; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

He that hath ears to hear, let him hear his gracious God saying unto him, "Seek ye my face."

It is the Father's call,

By every providence, Hos. v. 15. 2 Chron. xxxiii. 12, 13.

By every serious conviction, Rev. iii. 20.

Throughout his blessed word, Isa. lv. 6. Matt. vii. 7.

In the preaching of his gospel, 2 Cor. v. 20.

In his faithful promises, Isa. xlvi. 19. Jer. xxix. 13.

What a blessing, if our hearts are ready to give  
The child's answer,

"Thy face, Lord, will I seek!"

David was thus ready, Ps. lxxxv. 8 ; cviii. 1.  
So was young Samuel, 1 Sam. iii. 10.

So was Josiah, 2 Chron. xxxiv. 3.

So was Paul, Acts ix. 6.

So was Lydia, Acts xvi. 14.

So were the Bereans, Acts xvii. 11.

We cannot possess this readiness,

If we are taken up with worldly things, Matt. xxii. 5.

If we are living at ease, without God, Ps. x. 4.

Do I, then, answer to this call ?

Am I hearkening ? Cant. ii. 8 ; v. 2. Hab. ii. 1.

Am I resolved ? Luke xv. 17—19.

Have I begun ? Ps. cxix. 59, 60.

Am I persevering ? Phil. iii. 12—14.

Lord, as it is my chief happiness to enjoy thy presence, so do thou incline my heart always to seek thy face. “Quicken, O quicken me !”



### LXIII.

#### ROMANS xii. 10.

Be kindly affectioned one to another, with brotherly love.

A very needful rule for the members of Christian families, for Christian neighbours and friends, for every member of Christ, to quicken and enlarge his interest in the whole body, that it may be said of us, as of the first followers of our Lord, “See how these Christians love one another !”

I. Let us mark the features of brotherly love, Sincere,

9. 1 Pet. i. 22. 1 John iii. 18.

Humble, Text. John xiii. 14. Ephes. iv. 2.

Phil. ii. 3.

Self-denying, xv. 1. 1 Cor. ix. 22. 2 Cor. viii.  
 1—4. Gal. v. 13.

Forbearing, Eph. iv. 2. Col. iii. 13.

Forgiving, Matt. xviii. 21—35. Eph. iv. 32.

Watchful, Gal. vi. 1. Col. iii. 16. 1 Thess. v.  
 11. Heb. x. 24.

Kind, 1 Cor. xiii. 4—7. 1 Pet. iii. 8.

Sympathizing, 1 Cor. xii. 25, 26. Gal. vi. 2.  
 Heb. xiii. 3.

Abounding, 2 Cor. viii. 7. 1 Thess. iii. 12; iv. 10.

Flowing from the reception of the truth, 1 Pet.  
 i. 22. 2 Pet. i. 4—7.

## II. Watch against hindrances to this love—

Such as

Occasions of offence, xvi. 13—21. 1 Cor. viii. 9  
 —13; x. 32, 33. Heb. xii. 15.

Hastiness, Jos. xxii. 11, 12, 31. Eccl. vii. 9.

Pride, Prov. xxviii. 25. Mark ix. 33, 34; x.  
 41—44.

Resentment, Lev. xix. 18. Prov. x. 12. Eph.  
 iv. 26, 31, 32. James v. 9.

Selfishness, Phil. ii. 4, 21. James ii. 15, 16.

Provoking words, 1 Kings xii. 14—16. Prov.  
 xv. 1.

Envy, Gal. v. 26. Phil. ii. 3. James iii. 14, 16;  
 iv. 5.

## III. Cultivate the exercise of this love—

From a sense of God's love to us, Eph. v. 1, 2.  
 1 John iii. 16; iv. 11.

In conformity to the Divine example, John xiii.  
 34. 2 Cor. viii. 9. Eph. iv. 31, 32; v. 2.  
 Col. iii. 13.

Under the obligation of the Divine command,

Matt. vii. 12. John xv. 12. 1 John ii. 7, 8;  
iii. 11, 23; iv. 21. 2 John 5.

As the fruit of Divine teaching and grace, 1 Cor.  
xii. 13. Gal. v. 22. Col. i. 8. 1 Thess. iv. 9.

As the test of our Christian life and profession,  
John xiii. 35. 1 Pet. i. 22, 23. 1 John ii.  
9—11; iii. 14; iv. 7, 8.

As a component part of our practical obligation,  
Heb. xiii. 1. 1 Pet. ii. 17; iv. 8.

As the establishment of our Christian con-  
sistency, Col. iii. 14. 1 Thess. iii. 12, 13.  
1 John iv. 12.

As the means of our Christian assurance, 2 Pet.  
i. 7—19. 1 John iii. 14, 18, 19.

As connected with the enjoyment of our Chris-  
tian privileges, Eph. iv. 30—32. 1 Pet. iii. 7.  
1 John iv. 7, 8.

As bringing honour to our Lord in his Church,  
2 Thess. i. 3, 4.

As conducing to the edification and strength of  
the Church, Eph. iv. 16. Phil. i. 27; ii. 1, 2.

As bringing conviction to the world, John xvii. 21.

As connected with a reward of grace, Matt. xxv.  
34—40. Heb. vi. 10.

See the picture of this love, Acts ii. 41—47;  
iv. 33—

And unite with our Great Head in pleading for a  
larger infusion of it upon the whole Church, and  
every individual member of it, John xvii. 21.



## LXIV.

## PHILIPPIANS i. 21.

To me to live is Christ.

What is the believer's life?

As it regards his body, it is, as with others,  
“even a vapour, that appeareth for a little  
time, and then vanisheth away.” James iv. 13.

As it concerns his soul, it is everlasting life  
begun.

It is no other than Christ himself, Gal. ii. 20.  
For he can say, “To me to live is Christ.”

Expressive of

## I. Union.

Christ lives in him, Gal. i. 16; ii. 20.

As the life of his soul, John vi. 56. Gal. iv. 19.

As the object of his love, Eph. iii. 17.

As the hope of glory, Col. i. 27.

He lives in Christ, John xvii. 21.

As the branch in the vine, John xv. 1—5.

As the stone in the building, Eph. ii. 20—22.  
1 Pet. ii. 5.

As the members united to the head, Eph. iv. 15,  
16. Col. ii. 9.

## II. Dependence.

He lives by Christ, John vi. 51.

Deriving life from him, John x. 10; xi. 25; xiv.  
6, 19; xx. 31. Col. iii. 3, 4.

Drawing strength from him, Isa. xlv. 24. 2 Cor.  
xii. 8—10. Phil. iv. 13.

Diligently waiting upon him, Prov. viii. 34.

Continually receiving from his fulness, John i. 16.

### III. Communion.

He lives with Christ, 3. Rev. iii. 20.

By the indwelling of the Spirit, John. xiv. 16, 17, 20. 1 John iii. 24; iv. 13.

Holding fellowship with him, John xiv. 21—23.

1 John i. 3 ; iii. 24.

Abiding in his love, John xv. 9.

### IV. Devotedness.

He lives to Christ, Rom. xiv. 8. 2 Cor. v. 15.

Eyeing only his glory, 18, 20.

Separate from the spirit and maxims of the world, John xvii. 14.

Having his treasure and conversation in heaven, Phil. iii. 20.

Employing his time and influence in his service, Matt. xxv. 15, 16.

Daily crucifying the lusts of the flesh, Gal. v. 24.

Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ, 2 Cor. x. 5.

Constantly expecting his coming, Tit. ii. 13.

Heb. x. 36, 37.

Let me inquire, What is the influence of this life ?

In deadening my soul to the world, Col. iii. 2, 3,

In enlivening my heavenly prospects, Col. iii. 4.

What habitual power has it over my temper and

conversation ? Rom. vi. 2—5. Col. iii. 3—5.

Is this new principle of life springing up in every act and circumstance, guiding and animating my will and affections ? Gal. ii. 20. Col. iii. 17.



## LXV.

## LUKE xix. 41.

And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it.

He who came to seek and to save lost sinners, could not witness with indifference the sin and ruin of his beloved city.

These tears over Jerusalem flowed from his perfect knowledge

Of her obstinacy and impenitence, 42, 44.  
Mark iii. 5 ; viii. 12. Acts xiii. 45, 46.

Of her judicial blindness, Matt. xiii. 14, 15.  
Acts xxviii. 25—27. Rom. xi. 8.

Of the complete measure of her iniquity, Matt.  
xxiii. 32. 1 Thess. ii. 16.

Of the awful extent of her loss, Matt. xxi. 43.  
Rom. xi. 19—22.

Of the irrevocable certainty of her doom, 43, 44.  
Matt. xxiii. 35—38 ; xxiv. 1, 2, 34, 35.

They were but an index of that heart of love, which caused him

To leave the bosom of his Father, Phil. ii. 6, 7.  
To suffer the hidings of his countenance, Matt.  
xxvii. 46.

To endure the contradiction of sinners against  
himself, Matt. xxii. 15, 46. Heb. xii. 3.

To support unknown shame and agonies, Isa. 1.  
6. Gal. iii. 13.

To shed his most precious blood, 1 John iii. 16.

In the spirit of this blessed example, let us learn what our feelings ought to be towards those who neglect this great salvation.

We should be deeply concerned for them, as Paul was, Acts xvii. 16. Rom. ix. 1—3.

We should be earnest in prayer for them, as Moses was, Ex. xxxii. 31, 32. Deut. x. 17—19, 25.

We should grieve and weep for them, as David and Jeremiah did, Ps. cxix. 136. Jer. ix. 1; xiii. 17.

We should labour for them, as the apostles did, 2 Cor. vi. 4—10.

Do I pray for the conversion of my friends, neighbours, for the enemies of Christ and his Gospel ? 1 Tim. ii. 1.

Do I let my light shine before them ? Phil. ii. 15.

Am I careful not to put a stumbling-block in their way, by my own misconduct or inconsistency ? 1 Pet. ii. 16 ; iii. 16.

Oh ! how inexcusable is my indifference in that which cost my Saviour tears, agonies, and blood ! How apt am I to feel disappointment, and even anger, at the hardness or enmity of my fellow-creatures, forgetting that such once was I ! Lord, turn these sinful feelings into a holy compassion, that in this, as in every other feature, I may be conformed to the blessed image of thy dear Son.



## LXVI.

### MARK vii. 37.

He hath done all things well.

With the multitude this was the expression of ignorant and unfruitful astonishment, Text.

With the Lord's people it is the grateful acknowledgment of faith and love, Ps. cxix. 65, 75.

They have learned not only to endure their Lord's dispensations, but to rejoice in them, Job i. 21. Col. i. 11.

"He hath done all things well."

I. In the matter of his dispensations.

Whether prosperous, Gen. xxxix. 2, 3. 23, with xlvi. 5—8. Deut. viii. 18.  
or afflictive, Job i. 13—19. Ps. xciv. 12, 13; cxix. 67, 71.

II. In the character of them.

Righteous, Deut. xxxii. 4. Ps. cxlv. 17. Hos. xiv. 9. Rev. xv. 3.

Wise, Exod. xiii. 17, 18. Deut. xxxii. 10—12. Rom. xi. 33. Ephes. i. 11; iii. 10.

Tender, Ps. xxv. 10; ciii. 9—13. Heb. xii. 5, 6.

Faithful, Gen. xxviii. 15; xlvi. 15, 16. Josh. xxviii. 14. Ps. cxix. 65, 75. Isa. xlvi. 16. Jer. xxix. 11.

III. In the means of them.

By his own hand, 2 Sam. xxiv. 13, 14.

By the instrumentality of man, Gen. xlvi. 5—8; 1. 20. 2 Sam. xiv. 11, 12. Isa. x. 5—7.

By the permitted malice of Satan, 1 Chron. xxi. 1. Job i. 12.

IV. In the effect of them.

Working a present benefit for his people, Deut. viii. 2, 3. 2 Cor. xii. 7—9.

Yielding to them the fruits of righteousness, Isa. xxvii. 9; xxxviii. 16. Rom. v. 3. Heb. xii. 11. James i. 2—4.

Enriching them with large vouchsafements of his love, Job xlvi. 10—12. Ps. lxvi. 12.

Fitting them for extended service, Lam. iii. 27.  
Phil. iv. 11—13.

Manifesting his own glorious character, Isa. xli.  
17—20. James v. 11. 1 Pet. i. 6, 7.

Leading them on the way to glory, Deut. viii. 16.  
Ps. cvii. 7. Phil. i. 19. 1 Pet. v. 10.

That this may not be a barren acknowledgment,  
Let us cultivate a careful observation of the Lord's  
dealings, Ps. cvii. 43.

A faithful remembrance of them, Ps. ciii. 2—5.

A just appreciation of them, 1 Sam. xii. 24.

A confession of our unworthiness of them, Gen.  
xxxii. 10. 2 Sam. vii. 18.

A tracing them to their source, Ps. lxviii. 19.  
Ephes. i. 3.

An excitement of all our powers in acknowledg-  
ing them, Ps. ciii. 1; cviii. 1—4.

A daily and grateful return for them, Ps. cxvi.  
12, 13.

An assured confidence in their final issue for  
good, Rom. viii. 28.



## LXVII.

### JEREMIAH ii. 2.

I remember thee: the kindness of thy  
youth: the love of thine espousals.

How touching is this appeal from the Father of  
mercies to his faithless children; comparing their  
past and present feelings towards himself!

Let it lead us into a close and searching consider-  
ation of the sin of backsliding—the sin of fallen  
nature.

Let us mark,

I. The causes of backsliding.

The natural departure of the heart from God, ver. 19.

Declension in Christian doctrine, Gal. iii. 1—3; iv. 9, 20. Rev. ii. 14—16.

The influence of self-righteousness and self-dependence, Gal. v. 1—4. Matt. xxvi. 33—35.

The indulgence of the flesh, Gen. iii. 6; ix. 21. Judges xvi. 1. 2 Sam. xi. 2. 1 Kings xi. 1—4. Hos. iv. 11.

Neglect of secret communion with God, Job xv. 4. Isa. lxiv. 6, 7.

Needless association with the world, Hos. vii. 8. Matt. xxvi. 58, 69.

Over-valuing the things of the world, Gen. xiii. 10; xix. 16. Deut. viii. 12—14. 2 Kings xx. 13. 1 Tim. vi. 9, 10. 2 Tim. iv. 10.

Yielding to difficulties in the work of God, Jonah i. 1—3. Acts xiii. 13; xv. 38.

The habitual power of unbelief, Ps. lxxviii. 17—22. Heb. iii. 12.

The operation of these causes will show itself in

II. The symptoms of backsliding,

Such as

Unprofitable routine of Christian service, Rev. ii. 3, 4; iii. 2.

Indolent neglect of Christian privilege, Cant. iii. 1; v. 2, 3. 2 Pet. i. 9.

Slow advance in Christian knowledge, Heb. v. 11—14; vi. 1, 2.

Inconsistency of Christian profession, 1 Cor. iii. 2. Gal. ii. 11—14.

Insensibility to our real state, ver. 35. Judges xvi. 20. 2 Sam. xii. 5—7. Hos. vii. 9. Rev. iii. 17.

Hardness under the conviction of sin, 2 Chron. xvi. 10—12. Isa. i. 5. Jer. v. 3. 2 Cor. xii. 21. Indifference to the concerns of the Church, Hag. i. 2—5. Phil. ii. 21.

Bringing scandal upon the cause of God, 2 Sam. xii. 14. 2 Pet. ii. 2.

Temporary relinquishment of the profession of Christ, Matt. xxvi. 69—74.

Heartless despondency, Jer. ii. 25 ; xviii. 12.

That the discovery of any of these symptoms may awaken a lively concern,

Let us consider,

### III. The aggravations of backsliding,

As a matter of fearful astonishment, 12. Isa. i. 2, 3.

As an act of unkindness and ingratitude, 31, 32. Deut. xxxii. 5, 6. 1 Kings xi. 9. Isa. v. 4. Mic. vi. 3.

As unfaithfulness and rebellion, Ps. lxxviii. 8—11, 34—37.

As injurious to our comfort, 19 ; Job xv. 11. Ps. xxxii. 3, 4 ; xxxviii. 3—5.

As ruinous to our usefulness, Matt. v. 13.

As endangering our salvation, Heb. x. 38. 2 Pet. ii. 20—22.

If such is the aggravation of the guilt and ruin of backsliding, let us carefully investigate,

### IV. The manner of restoration.

Here we mark the office of the good Shepherd, Ps. xxiii. 3.

He makes our sin bring its own punishment,  
17—19. Prov. xiv. 14.

He exerts the almighty sovereignty of his grace,  
iii. 19—22. Isa. lvii. 17, 18. Luke xxii. 61, 62.  
He sets forth the rich and free declaration of  
his love, iii. 1, 12, 14; iv. 1. 1 Sam. xii. 20  
—24. Isa. i. 18; xlivi. 22—25; xliv. 21, 22.  
Hos. xiv. 4.

He brings them to a spiritual apprehension of his  
cross, Zech. xii. 10.

He awakens them by the solemn denunciations  
of his word, Rev. iii. 3, 15, 16.

He rouses them to the recollection of their first  
state, Text. Hos. ii. 7. Rev. ii. 5.

He exercises them with a sharp but tender  
discipline, Deut. iv. 27—31. Ps. lxxxix. 30—  
32. Hos. v. 15; vi. 1, 2. 1 Cor. v. 5, with 2  
Cor. ii. 7, 8. Rev. iii. 19.

He deepens their conviction of their sin, John xxi.  
15—17.

#### V. Advice.

Stop in every way the avenues of temptation,  
Job xxxi. 1. Ps. cxix. 37. Prov. iv. 23. Matt.  
xxvi. 41.

Guard against the first step of departure from  
God, Prov. iv. 27; xvii. 14.

Cherish the opposite principles of godliness, Gal.  
v. 16.

Venture not one step in the continuance of sin  
1 Sam. xii. 25. Ps. lxviii. 21.

Let there be an instant turning back to God,  
iii. 22.

Return by the same way as at first you came to  
God, xxxi. 21, 22.

Expect immediate forgiveness, **xxxii. 18—20.**  
Luke xv. 20.  
Or if exercised in conflict, be not disheartened  
by defeat, **Mic. vii. 8.**  
Be always (even in darkness) looking for the  
light of day, **Mic. vii. 9.**  
Take encouragement to return, from the con-  
descending instructions of your God, **Hos. xiv.**  
**2, 3.**  
Be encouraged to an open and full confession  
of your sin, **Prov. xxviii. 13.** 1 John i. 9.  
Stop not short of a complete restoration to former  
privileges, **Ps. xxxii. 1, 2; li. 12.**  
Cultivate the diligent exercise of an active faith,  
Rev. iii. 2.  
Forget not to take heed to the end, **Rom. xi. 20.**  
**1 Cor. x. 12.** Heb. iii. 12.

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## LXVIII.

### LUKE xii. 15.

Take heed, and beware of covetousness.

How diversified are the forms and workings of  
this baneful principle !

It is the fleshly lust of every child of man, **Mark**  
**vii. 21, 22.**

It is too often associated with the profession of  
religion, **Ezek. xxxiii. 32.** 1 Cor. v. 11.

Nay, it is sometimes the hateful spot upon the  
garment of God's own children, **Isa. lvii. 17.**

It is discoverable

By discontent with our present comforts, **17, 18.**  
**1 Kings xxi. 4.**

By an over-reaching anxiety for worldly advantages, Gen. xiii. 10, 11. Jos. vii. 21. 2 Kings v. 20.

By a satisfying confidence in worldly possessions, 19. Job xxxi. 24, 25. Hab. ii. 9.

By stifling conscience for worldly ends, Num. xxii. 18—21. 2 Pet. ii. 15.

By want of sincerity in Christian profession, John xii. 4—6. Acts v. 1, 2.

By resistance to the strict requirements of the Gospel, Matt. xix. 22. Luke xv. 13, 14.

The guilt of covetousness is shown

As a false ground of glorying, Jer. ix. 23.

As an idolatrous denial of God, Job xxxi. 28. Eph. v. 5.

As a hindrance to the reception of the Gospel, viii. 14.

As incurring the awful curse of God, Ps. x. 3. Col. iii. 5, 6. 2 Pet. ii. 14.

As the path-way of eternal ruin, 1 Cor. vi. 10. 1 Tim. vi. 9, 10.

The power of this principle will be successfully resisted,

By

Considering the vanity of earthly things, Text. Prov. xxiii. 5. Eccl. ii. 8—11; v. 11. 1 Cor. vii. 29—31. 1 Tim. vi. 17.

The true portion of the cross, Heb. xi. 24—26.

The realized apprehension of the Saviour, Matt. xiii. 44—46. Luke xix. 5—8. Gal. vi. 14.

The influence of spiritual mortification, Col. iii. 5.

Earnest watchfulness and prayer, xxi. 34. Ps. cxix. 36, 37. Prov. xxx. 8, 9.

Simple dependence upon the providence of God,  
Matt. vi. 25—34. Heb. xiii. 5.

The recollection of the nearness of eternity, Phil.  
iv. 5.

What estimate does the low estate of Christ and  
his apostles teach me to put upon the things of this  
world? Matt. viii. 20. John i. 10. 1 Cor. iv. 11, 12.

Do I manifest an habitual, literal, and self-denying  
consideration of others? xvi. 9. 1 Tim. vi. 18, 19.

Do I know the blessedness of contentment, with a  
little of this world's goods? Phil. iv. 11. 1 Tim. vi.  
6—8.

Could I welcome any bereaving Providence as an  
enriching blessing to my soul? Job i. 21. Heb. x. 34.



## LXIX.

### 1 JOHN ii. 15.

Love not the world, nor the things that are  
in the world. If any man love the world, the  
love of the Father is not in him.

The love of God and of the world cannot rule  
together in the same heart. One must be upper-  
most, Matt. vi. 24. James iv. 4.

If you would know whether the world rules in  
your heart, ask yourself such questions as these—

Do I yield to vain and worldly thoughts? Jer.  
iv. 14.

Do I hanker after worldly company or pleasure?  
2 Tim. iii. 4.

Do I wish to imitate the world in dress, habit,  
or manner? Isa. iii. 16. 1 Tim. ii. 9.

**Am I seeking worldly esteem ? John v. 44 ; xii. 42, 43.**

**Do I allow myself in worldly conversation ? 1 John iv. 5.**

If you desire to know whether the love of God rules,

Inquire,

**Is communion with God desired ? Ps. xlvi. 1, 2.**

**Are his sabbaths and ordinances prized ? Ps. xlvi. 4 ; lxxxiv. Isa. lviii. 13, 14.**

**Is his word my daily food and delight ? Job xxiii. 12. Ps. cxix. 97, 103. Jer. xv. 16.**

**Are his people my chosen companions ? Ps. xvi. 3 ; cxix. 63, 79.**

**Is my whole heart given to him ? 2 Chron. xv. 12, 15. Ps. lxxiii. 25.**

**Am I longing to live in his presence for ever ? 1 Thess. iv. 17. Rev. iii. 12 ; xxii. 4.**

Remember, victory over the world is obtained,

By the power of the cross of Christ, Gal. vi. 14. Phil. iii. 7, 8.

By the exercise of a living faith. 1 John v. 4, 5.

The principles of the love of the Father are—

His free choice and love of us, iv. 19. Jer. xxxi. 3.

The strengthening influence of the doctrines of Christ, Jude 20, 21.

The work of the Holy Spirit on the heart, Rom. v. 5. 2 Thess. iii. 5. Jude 20, 21.



LXX.

## MARK vi. 12.

And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

Repentance is a distinguishing grace of the man of God.

He cannot know himself to be a sinner without deep shame and humiliation of soul.

What have I done ? What have I neglected to do ?

The first sign of spiritual life is an awakened sense of sin.

Therefore the ministers of Christ "go out, and preach that men should repent."

## I. Mark the necessity of repentance,

As saving from deserved punishment, Ezek. xviii. 28, 30. Luke xiii. 3—5. Rev. ii. 5 ; iii. 3.

As justifying God in the punishment of sin, Jos. vii. 19. Ps. li. 4.

As a means of forgiveness, Job xxxiii. 27, 28. Luke xxiv. 47. Acts ii. 38 ; iii. 19 ; v. 31.

## II. Mark its character.

It has many counterfeits.

Natural repentance produces

Alarm, Matt. xxvii. 3—5. Acts xxiv. 25.

Conviction, 20.

Confession, 1 Sam. xv. 24, 30. Matt. iii. 1—6.

Resolutions, Ex. ix. 27, 28 ; x. 16, 17.

Partial amendment, 2 Kings xxi. 27—29.

Spiritual repentance has all these, but it has more—

It is connected with faith, Acts xx. 21.

It includes a hearty sorrow for sin, 2 Cor. vii. 10.  
An entire forsaking of all sin, 2 Chron. xxxiii.  
12, 15, 16. Ezek. xviii. 28.  
An instant return to God, Hos. v. 15; vi. 1.  
Luke xv. 18—20.  
An evidence in godly fruits, Matt. iii. 8. Acts  
xxvi. 20. 2 Cor. vii. 11.

### III. Its origin is of God—

The gift of Almighty God, Ezek. xxxvi. 26. Acts  
xi. 18. 2 Tim. ii. 25.

The blessing of an exalted Saviour, Acts v. 31.

The work of the Holy Spirit, Zech. xii. 10.

### Produced

By a sight of our own guilt and need, Ps. li. 4.  
Jer. xxxi. 18, 19. Luke xv. 16, 17.

By a sight of the love and sufferings of Christ,  
Zech. xii. 10. Acts ii. 36, 37.

### Deepened

By a view of the character of God, Job xlvi. 5, 6.

By an assurance of pardon, Ezek. xvi. 63.

O thou blessed Spirit ! whose special office is to  
convince of sin, and to testify of Christ to the soul,  
work in me that repentance unto life eternal, that  
will make sin for ever hateful, and Christ more  
precious, and which will bring with it all the holy  
tempers and heavenly affections of a true follower of  
Christ.

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## LXXI.

## 1 THESSAL. v. 17.

Pray without ceasing.

Is it not a most humbling thought, that we should need to be exhorted to that which is our highest privilege?

Yet what child of God does not mourn over reluctance to prayer,

And does not acknowledge the need of quickening grace for a due regard to the command, "Pray without ceasing"?

I. This duty includes

Having our set times for prayer, Ps. v. 3; lv. 17.  
Dan. vi. 10.

Living in the constant spirit of prayer, Ps. xxv.  
5; cix. 4.

Watching against that state of mind or engagements that unfit us for prayer, 1 Pet. iii. 7.  
1 Cor. vii. 34, 35.

Catching every gale of the spirit of prayer,  
Cant. iv. 16.

II. The text implies that the duty is never out of season.

Our need is always pressing, Ps. xl. 17; lxxxvi. 1.  
Our warrant is always clear, Heb. iv. 14—16;  
x. 19—22.

Our invitation is always free, Matt. vii. 7, 8.

Our success is always sure, Ps. xxxiv. 3—6. Isa.  
xlv. 19.

Remember, this prayer is

The influence of the Divine Spirit upon the heart, Eph. vi. 18. Jude 20.

It is fellowship with our God and Saviour,  
1 John i. 3.

It is the witness of our adoption into the family  
of God, Rom. viii. 15. Gal. iv. 6.

It opens the hiding-place of the afflicted, Ps.  
lxii. 8; lxxi. 1—3. James v. 13.

It opens the solace of the wounded, Lam. iii.  
56, 57.

It opens the source of strength to the weak,  
Ps. cxxxviii. 3. Isa. xl. 31.

Christian! let this command be to you as “the frontlets between your eyes”—ever before you. For without this unceasing prayer, expect no vigour in the spiritual life, no conquest over spiritual enemies, no abiding peace, no refreshing sense of adoption, no growth in grace, no longings or foretastes of glory.



## LXXII.

### JEREMIAH xxxiii. 3.

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Christian! set no bounds to your petitions, but the will and word of God, Matt. xxi. 22. 1 John v. 14, 15.

Your God has opened to you a free communication with himself, Heb. x. 19, 20.

He has given you the fullest and most faithful encouragement, Matt. vii. 7, 8.

He assures your desires with unlimited expectations  
—“Call unto me,” &c.

Such is the mighty power of prayer !

I. Let us illustrate this wonderful declaration by the Scripture records of,

1. Personal prayer

In times of outward destitution, Judges xv. 18, 19. James v. 17, 18.

In actual extremity, Gen. xxxii. 9—12, 24—28. 2 Kings xx. 1—6. 2 Chron. xxxiv. 11—13. Ps. xviii. 6. Dan. ii. 13—24. Jonah ii. Acts iv. 24—31.

In inward perplexity, Gen. xxiv. 12—15. 1 Sam. xxiii. 10—12. 2 Sam. v. 19, 20.

In family affliction, 1 Sam. i. 6—18. 1 Kings iii. 5—13. Neh. ii. 4—8.

In spiritual conflict, Ps. vi. 1—9; xxii. 24; xxx. 6—12; xl. 1, 2. Lam. iii. 55—58. Luke xxii. 41—44. Heb. v. 7. 2 Cor. xii. 7—9.

For special guidance and direction, Dan. ix. 19—23.

In every case of need, Ps. xxxiv. 17; lvii. 2. Heb. iv. 16.

For the supply of spiritual blessings, 1 Chron. iv. 10. Ps. lxvi. 16—20; cxxxviii. 3.

2. Intercessory prayer,

For the ungodly, Gen. xviii. 22—32.

For the prosperity of the Church, Ps. cxxxii. 8—18.

For offending brethren, Job xlvi. 8—10. James v. 16. 1 John v. 16.

For afflicted members of a family, Mark vii. 25; ix. 23—26.

For the deprecating of national judgments, Exod. xxxii. 11—14; xxxiii. 12—17. Deut.

ix. 18, 19. 1 Kings viii. 22—53; ix. 2, 3.  
Jonah iii. 7—10.

For obtaining national deliverances, 1 Sam.  
vii. 7—12. 2 Kings xix. 14—37. 2 Chron.  
xiv. 11, 12; xx. 4—27; xxxii. 20, 21.  
Amos vii. 1—6.

II. Let us mark the warrant for this mighty power  
of prayer!

How firm! Luke xviii. 7, 8. Heb. iv. 14—16;  
x. 19—21. Rev. viii. 3, 4.

How free! Luke xxiv. 42, 43.

How boundless! John xiv. 13, 14; xv. 7, 16;  
xvi. 23, 24.

III. Let us admire the end,

For the glory of the Father, John xiv. 13.

For the encouragement of the sinner, Ps. xxxii.  
5, 6.

For the established confidence of the Church,  
Ps. xxxiv. 3, 4; xl. 3; lxvi. 16—20.

IV. Therefore,

How largely we should desire! Exod. xxxiii. 18.  
Ps. lxxxi. 10. Eph. i. 17—19; iii. 14—19.

How boldly we should ask! Ps. lxxiv. 22. Isa.  
xlv. 11. Heb. x. 22.

How confidently we should expect! Mark xi.  
24. 1 John v. 14, 15.

How thankfully we should acknowledge! Ps.  
cxvi. 1, 2.



## LXXXIII.

## ACTS xvi. 31.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.

Are you, like the jailor, asking, What must I do to be saved? as a question of life and death?—as the most important question in the world? Is salvation *indeed* sought by you? Are you ready to lose all, to suffer all, to make every sacrifice, if that you may obtain it? Behold, then, the way set before you:—

Simple—for the most ignorant, Isa. xxxv. 8.

Free—for the most unworthy, Rev. xxii. 17.

Suitable—for every case of need, Matt. xi. 28.  
Col. iii. 11.

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Believe

Your lost estate without him, Luke xv. 3—6;  
xix. 10.

Your utter inability to deserve him, Rom. v. 6,  
8, 10. Titus iii. 5.

His power to save you, Ps. lxxxix. 19. Isa.  
lxiii. 1. Heb. vii. 25.

His willingness to save you, Isa. lv. 1. Matt.  
xxiii. 37. John v. 40.

The faithfulness of his promise to save you, Isa.  
lv. 3.

Remember,

This faith is the gift of God, Eph. ii. 8. Phil. i. 29.

The command of God, John vi. 29. 1 John iii. 23.

The appointed way of finding acceptance with  
God, Acts x. 43; xiii. 39.

Look to him to give you this faith.  
In this faith come to him—

Instantly, Matt. ix. 9. 2 Cor. vi. 2.  
Joyfully, Luke xix. 6.

Lord, if, indeed, thou hast stirred up the jailor's inquiry in my heart, and hast thyself given the answer of peace, O may my faith, like his, be productive of holy joy, and instant and continued devotedness to thy service, 33, 34.

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#### LXXIV.

##### LUKE xvii. 5.

And the apostles said unto the Lord,  
Increase our faith.

What the apostles asked for, let me not be afraid to ask for myself—Increase of faith.

This will bring an increase of every spiritual grace and blessing.

For what do I want this increase ?

##### I. For knowledge.

Lord, increase my faith,

That my views of the Saviour may be enlarged,  
Eph. iii. 17—19.

That I may be established in the simplicity and fulness of the Gospel, Rom. i. 17. Col. ii. 5—7.

That I may more successfully resist the power of the tempter, Eph. vi. 16. 1 Pet. v. 9.

##### II. For duty.

Lord, increase my faith,

That I may maintain

A more abiding love of God, Jude 20, 21.

A more fervent love of the brethren, 2 Thess. i. 3.

A daily victory over the world, 1 John v. 4, 5.

A practical exercise of Christian graces, 3—5.  
2 Pet. i. 5—7.

### III. For patience.

Lord, increase my faith,

That I may meekly submit to the dispensations of my Father's love, 2 Sam. xv. 25, 26.

That I may steadfastly endure the worldly cross, 2 Tim. i. 12.

That I may exhibit Christian perfection, James i. 3, 4.

That I may wait for the joy of the coming of the Lord, Rom. viii. 24, 25. Gal. v. 5. Heb. x. 36—38.

### IV. For comfort.

Lord, increase my faith,

That the purification of my soul may be advancing, Acts xv. 9.

That I may have a more full participation of the promise of the Spirit, Rom. xv. 13. Gal. iii. 14.

That I may be more enlivened in the enjoyment of my Christian privileges, Eph. i. 13. 1 Pet. i. 8.

That I may have a large answer to my prayer, Ps. lxxxi. 10. Matt. xxi. 22. James i. 5, 6.

Let me mark distinctly, whether I indeed possess this precious faith.

Let me ask daily for the increase of it.

Let me watch diligently, that it does not languish  
for want of prayer and exercise.

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## LXXV.

## MARK ix. 23.

If thou canst believe, all things are possible  
to him that believeth.

The very nature of faith supposes difficulty.

It is opposed to sight, John xx. 29. 2 Cor. v. 7.  
Heb. xi. 27.

It rises above sense and feeling, Job xiii. 15.

It puts reason to silence, Luke i. 34—38. John  
vi. 12—16.

It implies a consciousness of weakness, ver. 24.  
Matt. xv. 25.

And a dependence upon Almighty strength, 2  
Chron. xiv. 11; xx. 12. Ps. xl. 17. 2 Cor.  
iii. 5.

Let us mark some of the achievements of this  
wonderful principle.

“All things are possible to it.”

It overcomes all the temptations of time and  
sense, Heb. xi. 8—10, 24—26. 1 John v. 4, 5.

It stands firm in the promise, notwithstanding  
all natural impossibilities, Rom. iv. 17—21.  
Heb. xi. 11.

It is unshaken by all seeming contradiction,  
Heb. xi. 17—19.

It obediently ventures upon present difficulty,  
Exod. xiv. 2, 15. Heb. xi. 29.

It performs the greatest work by the weakest

means, Judges vii. 16—22. Isa. xli. 14, 15. 1 Cor. i. 21. Heb. xi. 30.

It overcomes even the prescript of the Divine will, Deut. xxiii. 3, with Ruth i. 16; iv. 10. Matt. xv. 24—28, with x. 5, 6.

It triumphs over the forebodings of the most frowning providences, 1 Sam. xxx. 6. Hab. iii. 17, 18.

It maintains an assured confidence under conflict and chastening, Ps. lxv. 3. Mic. vii. 8, 9.

It prevents hard thoughts of God under the most afflicting dispensations, 2 Kings iv. 26. Job i. 21.

It obtains the supply of grace to the utmost of our desire, Ps. lxxxii. 10. Matt. xxi. 22.

Be sure that faith is grounded upon the clear warrant of Scripture, 1 John v. 14.

Act present faith as the way to encourage its fruitfulness, Matt. xxv. 29. 2 Pet. i. 5.

Face the most appalling difficulties in the resources of faith, Zech. iv. 7. Mark xi. 22, 23. Phil. iv. 13.

Connect the exercise of faith with every Christian duty, Luke xvii. 3—6.

Let the habitual exercise of faith prepare you for every emergency, Gal. ii. 20.

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## LXXVI.

### MARK ii. 28.

The Son of man is Lord, also, of the Sabbath.

This proves the Sabbath to be of evangelical, as well as of legal, obligation.

Let us regard this first law given to man, Gen. ii. 3.

## I. In its nature.

As a recollection of God's rest from the work of creation, Gen. ii. 1—3. Ex. xxx. 17.

As a figure of Christ's rest from his work of redemption, Ps. cxviii. 22—24. Heb. iv. 10.

As a memorial of deliverance from Egyptian bondage, Deut. v. 15.

As a seal of the mutual relation between God and his people, Ex. xxxi. 13—17. Ezek. xx. 12—20.

As a day of rest for man from worldly care, ver. 27. Ex. xxiii. 12.

As an emblem of the spiritual rest of faith, Heb. iv. 3, 4.

As an earnest of the eternal rest above, Heb. iv. 9. Rev. iv. 8.

## II. In its obligations.

As a positive and perpetual command of God, Ex. xx. 8—10. Matt. v. 17, 18.

As an acknowledgment of the authority of Christ, Text.

## III. In its duties and employments.

Let us see

That our whole house is embued with a Sabbath spirit, Lev. xxiii. 3. Ps. xcii. 1, 2.

That we begin it in the closet, Ps. v. 3, 7; cxviii. 24, 25.

That we join the public assemblies of the Church, Luke iv. 16. Acts xiii. 14, 44; xvi. 13; xx. 7.

That we cultivate the society of the Lord's people, Ps. xlvi. 4; cxviii. Isa. ii. 3.

That we employ ourselves in works of mercy, Matt. xii. 10—12. Mark i. 21—34.

## IV. In its spirit.

Prepared, Ps. xxvi. 6. Luke xxiii. 54.

Watchful, Eccles. v. 1, 2. Isa. lviii. 13.

Joyful, Ps. xxvi. 7, 8; xxvii. 4; xliii. 4; lxxxiv.; xcii. 1—3; cxviii. 24—28; cxxii. Isa. lvi. 4—7.

Reverential, Gen. xxviii. 17. Ps. v. 7; xciii. 5. Isa. lviii. 13.

Expectant, Ps. xlviii. 8—10; lxiii. 2.

Enlarged and intercessory, Ps. cxxii. 6—9.

Mark the promises annexed to this sacred institution—

Such as—

Delight in the Lord, Isa. lviii. 14.

Elevation of holy joy, *ibid.*

Participation of heavenly privileges, *ibid.* and lvi. 4, 5.

Fruitfulness in Christian graces, Ps. xcii. 13—15.

National prosperity, Jer. xvii. 24—27, with Neh. xiii. 16—18. Ezek. xx. 20, 21.



## LXXVII.

## HEBREWS ii. 1.

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

An important admonition for the Sabbath.

It is no small privilege to hear the Gospel, Matt. xiii. 16, 17.

There is no small danger of losing what we hear, Matt. xiii. 19.

There is a solemn account to be given of the neglect of our privilege, 2, 3. Matt. xi. 20—24; xii. 41, 42. Luke xii. 47, 48.

The matters to which the Apostle calls our "heed" are of the deepest moment—

Such as—

The glory of the person of Christ, Heb. i.

As the Son of God, 2, 5, 6, 8. Ps. ii. 6.

As one with God, 3. Col. i. 15. John x. 30; xiv. 8, 9.

As the Creator of the universe, 2, 10—12. John i. 1—3. Col. i. 16.

As the Upholder of the world, 3. Col. i. 17.

As the Heir of all things, 2; ii. 6, 8. Ps. lxxxix. 27.

As the Lord of angels, 4—14. Eph. i. 20, 21. 1 Pet. iii. 22.

The completeness of his work.

Himself perfect in holiness, 9. Luke i. 35. 2 Pet. ii. 22.

And therefore fitted by Divine unction for his work, 9; vii. 26. 1 John iii. 5.

His work perfectly accomplished, 3; ix. 12, 26; x. 14.

Himself accepted and triumphing in it, 3; vii. 26; viii. 2; x. 12; xii. 2.

The greatness of his salvation.

Superior in glory to the law, 2. 2 Cor. iii. 9—11.

Spoken by the Lord himself, 3; i. 2; xii. 25. Matt. iv. 17.

Confirmed by his apostles, 3. Luke i. 2; xxiv. 47, 48. Acts x. 39—42.

Witnessed by God, 4. Mark xvi. 20. Aets v. 12—15; xiv. 3.

Such being the vast importance of "the things which we have heard,"

"We ought to give the more earnest heed to them,"  
2 Pet. i. 16—19.

To

Treasure them up in our hearts, Deut. vi. 6.  
Luke ii. 19.

Make them the subject of our conversation, Deut. vi. 7. Mal. iii. 16.

Plead the promise of the Holy Spirit to bring them to our remembrance, John xiv. 26.

Thus we shall be kept from "letting the word slip." And the word—heard, believed, and retained—will be the means of our salvation, Prov. iv. 13. 1 Cor. xv. 2.

"O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of thy people, and prepare their hearts unto thee," 1 Chron. xxix. 18.

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### LXXVIII.

#### HOSEA vi. 3.

Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord.

None but those who persevere will know the substantial heavenly comforts of the Gospel.

We must "follow on to know the Lord"—

With child-like humility, Job xxxiv. 32.

With prayer for Divine teaching, Ps. cxix. 18, 33.  
Prov. ii. 3.

With simple faith, John xii. 26.

With obedient hearts, Acts x. 3, 4.

With determination to go forward to the end,  
Phil. iii. 12—14.

“Then shall we know”—

The babes shall be taught, Ps. xxv. 9. Isa.  
xxviii. 9. Matt. xi. 25; xviii. 3, 4.

Praying souls shall find wisdom, Prov. ii. 3—5.  
Luke xi. 13. John xvi. 13.

The simple believers shall be enlightened, John  
viii. 12; xii. 46.

The obedient followers shall come to knowledge,  
John i. 47—51; vii. 17. Acts xi. 13, 14.

Oh! then, follow on—follow daily. Let not pride,  
vanity, indolence, unbelief, keep you back.

Keep Christ in view, and press forward to the  
prize before you.

The Gospel is not a fable, 1 Tim. i. 15. 2 Pet.  
i. 16.

Religion is worth all our pains, Luke x. 42.

Christ is the unspeakable gift of God, John  
iii. 16. 2 Cor. ix. 15.

The light of God's countenance is better than  
life, Ps. iv. 6; lxiii. 3.

Heaven is worth living and dying for, 2 Cor. iv.  
16—18. Phil. i. 21—23.



### LXXIX.

**PSALM** ciii. 19.

His kingdom ruleth over all.

The kingdom of providence opens full and instruct-  
ive views of the perfections of God.

I. How perfect his knowledge! Job xxxvi. 4, 5.

The whole creation is under his eye, Job xii. 10 ;  
 xxxiv. 22. Prov. xv. 3.

He directs each part to its proper end, Prov.  
 iii. 20.

He knows the ways of men, Job xxxiv. 21. Ps.  
 cxxxix. 1—3. Prov. v. 21. Dan. v. 23.

He ordereth their goings, Prov. xvi. 9. Jer. x.  
 23. Acts xvii. 26.

II. How vast his power ! Ps. cxlvii. 5.

Subjecting the creation to the dominion of man,  
 Gen. i. 28 ; ix. 2. Ps. viii. 5—9. Heb. ii.  
 6—8.

Renewing the face of the earth, Ps. civ. 30. Matt.  
 vi. 28, 29.

Issuing his commands to his universe, Exod. xiv.  
 21. Job xxxvii. 5, 6 ; xxxviii. 12, 13. Ps.  
 cxlvii. 15, 18 ; cxlviii. 7, 8.

Controlling the ordinances of heaven, Job xxxvi.  
 32 ; xxxvii. 7 ; xxxviii. 31—35. Ps. cxlvii. 4,  
 18. Jonah i. 4.

Restraining the fury of the elements, Job xxxviii.  
 8—10. Ps. lxxxix. 9 ; civ. 6—9. Jer. v. 22.  
 Matt. viii. 26, 27.

Curbing the disorderly passions of man, Ps. lxv.  
 7. Isa. xvii. 12, 13.

Accomplishing his own pleasure, Ps. cxxxv. 6.  
 Dan. iv. 35.

III. How marvellous his wisdom ! Ps. civ. 24. Jer.  
 x. 12.

Guiding the course of the universe, Job xxxvii. 12.

Giving instinct to the animal creation, Prov. vi.  
 6—8. Isa. i. 3. Jer. viii. 7.

Making suitable provision for their comfort, Ps.  
 xxix. 6 ; civ. 16—18.

Establishing his own laws with man, Eccles. iii. 14.  
Equalizing his dispensations with his creatures,  
Job xxxiv. 23. Eccles. vii. 14.

Portioning different seasons for their work, Eccles.  
iii. 1, 17.

Fitting them for their various responsibilities,  
Exod. xxxv. 30—35. 1 Sam. x. 9. 1 Kings  
iii. 7—12. Isa. xxviii. 23—29.

IV. How fearful his justice ! Jer. v. 9—17.

Making the creation the instruments of his vengeance,  
Exod. viii. 1—7. 2 Kings xix. 35.  
Joel ii. 25.

Withholding his appointed blessing from the earth, Ps. cvii. 34. Isa. v. 6. Jer. v. 24, 25.

Suffering sin to bring its own punishment, Prov.  
xiii. 4; xix. 15.

V. How comprehensive his goodness ! Ps. xxxiii. 5 ;  
cxlv. 9.

Preserving life throughout his whole creation,  
Neh. ix. 6. Job vii. 19. Acts xvii. 25, 28.

Providing for their necessary wants, Job xxxviii.  
41. Ps. civ. 26—28 ; cxlv. 15, 16 ; cxlvii. 9.  
Matt. vi. 26.

Exercising special care over the meanest of his creatures, Deut. xxv. 4. Matt. x. 29.

Crowning the year with fruitfulness, Ps. lxv. 9—13. Acts xiv. 17.

Regarding the necessities of men, Gen. i. 29 ; ix. 3. Ps. civ. 14, 15.

Giving to him a full enjoyment of temporal blessings, Eccles. ii. 24 ; iii. 12, 13 ; v. 18, 19 ; ix. 7—9. 1 Tim. iv. 4 ; vi. 17.

Disposing him into social connections, Ps. lxviii. 6 ; cvii. 41.

Dispensing his favours to the most unworthy,  
Matt. v. 45.

VI. How sure his faithfulness ! Ps. cxix. 89, 90.

Restraining the just punishment of sin, Gen. viii.  
21.

Establishing the constant recurrence of the  
seasons, Gen. viii. 22. Ps. cxix. 91.

Magnifying his truth in all his operations, Ps.  
cxi. 7, 8.

For caution—

Beware of abusing the Divine government,

For continuance in sin, Eccles. viii. 11.

For neglecting God, Ps. xxviii. 5.

For denying the presence and restraint of God,  
Ps. xciv. 7. Isa. xxx. 11. Zeph. i. 12.

For charging sin upon God, Gen. iii. 12. 2 Sam.  
xi. 25.

For instruction—

Observe

A field for contemplation, Job xxxvi. 24—26 ;  
xxxvii. 14. Ps. cxi. 2.

Matter for conviction, Ps. lviii. 10, 11.

Encouragement to prayer, Job v. 8—11. Ps.  
cxix. 64—68.

Strength to confidence, Matt. vi. 26—32.

Excitement to praise, Ps. civ. 33, 34 ; cvii. 8 ;  
cxlvii. ; cxlviii.

Subject of joy, Ps. xcvi. 1.

Quicken to the desire and expectation of  
spiritual blessings, Deut. xxxiii. 13—16. 1  
Chron. iv. 10. Ps. xxix. 10, 11 ; xxxvi. 6—8.

## For encouragement—

Remember,

All providential mercies flow from the great atoning sacrifice, Gen. viii. 20, 21.

The God of providence is the Saviour and Head of the Church, John v. 17. Col. i. 17. Heb. i. 3.

The faithfulness of the ordinances of providence is the pledge of the unchangeableness of the covenant of grace, Isa. liv. 9, 10. Jer. xxxi. 35—37; xxxii. 25, 26.



## LXXX.

## MATTHEW x. 30.

But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

The care of the good Lord extends to all his creatures—

But his particular providence is exercised towards his own children.

“The very hairs of their head are all numbered.”

I. Let us mark the endearing features of this providence.

It is,

Incessant, Job vii. 18; xxxvi. 7. Ps. cxxi. 4.  
Isa. xxvii. 3.

Minute, Ps. xxxiv. 20; xxxvii. 23; cxxxix. 16.  
Powerful, Gen. xxxi. 7, 29; xxxiii. 4; xxxv. 5.

2 Chron. xvi. 9. Esth. ix. 2, 3. Hos. ii. 18.  
2 Pet. ii. 5—9.

Wise, 1 Sam. xxv. 32, 33. Hos. ii. 6, 7.

Tender, Deut. xxxii. 10, 11; xxxiii. 3. Ps. xxxiv. 15; cvii. 43. Rev. xii. 4—6.

Faithful, Gen. xxxii. 9—12; xlvi. 15. Deut. ii. 7. Ps. lvii. 2; cxix. 75. Isa. xlvi. 16; xlvi. 3, 4.

Mysterious, Job xxxiii. 13. Psalm xxxvi. 6; lxxvii. 19.

Universal, 2 Chron. xvi. 9. Job i. 9, 10. Ps. cxxi. 5—8.

Blessing those who deal kindly with his people, Gen. xii. 3; xxx. 27; xxxix. 5. Exod. i. 20, 21. Josh. vi. 25. 1 Kings xvii. 12—16. 2 Kings iv. 9, 17. Matt. x. 42. Acts xxviii. 7, 8. 2 Tim. i. 16—18.

Frowning on the persecutors of the Church, Exod. xii. 29. Deut. xxiii. 3, 4. Esth. vii. 4—10. Ps. cv. 13, 14. Zech. ii. 8. Acts xii. 1—3, 23.

Employing the ministration of angels, 2 Kings vi. 13—17. Ps. xxxiv. 7; xci. 11. Heb. i. 14.

II. Let us observe the rich instruction to be drawn from it.

It rebukes our unbelief, Matt. vi. 25—34.

It encourages our confidence, ver. 31. 1 Sam. xvii. 37. Ps. xxxiii. 19, 20. Isa. li. 9—11. 2 Cor. i. 10. 2 Tim. iv. 17, 18. 1 Pet. v. 7.

It overcomes the fear of man, ver. 28. Dan. iii. 17. Mark xiii. 11.

It realizes our union with Christ, Matt. xxv. 40. Acts ix. 4.

It quickens our prayers, Ps. lvii. 2; cv. 4, 5. Isa. xxvi. 8.

It enlivens our thankfulness, Ps. xlvi. 6—8; xcii. 4.

It deepens our humiliation, 2 Sam. vii. 18. Job xxxiii. 14—17.

It leads us, in trials, to look beyond the instrument, to the dispenser of them, Gen. xlv. 8. 1 Sam. iii. 18. 2 Sam. xvi. 10—12.

It teaches us to expect a sanctified blessing from afflictive providences, Job xxxiii. 18—30. Isa. xxvii. 9.

It enlarges our expectation of spiritual blessings, Ps. xxxvi. 6—8; lxviii. 19, 20.

O Lord, give me a more undoubting faith in thy kind, wise, over-ruling, and never-ceasing providence, so that I may learn to trust my soul, body, all I am, and all I have, into thy hands; that I may meet afflictive dispensations with submission—may look beyond thine instrument to thyself. And whether in prosperity or trial, O, may the recollection that I am thine, make me look to thee, and to glorify thee in all.

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## LXXXI.

### PSALM lxxix. 19.

Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known.

A striking description of the mysterious path of God's providence!

Reason can explain nothing, Ps. xcii. 5, 6. Eccles. viii. 16, 17.

Faith is often staggered, Ps. lxxix. 2—15.

But the path, carefully and humbly explored, will at length open.

**I. Mysteries of wisdom.**

See the only wise God working his great purposes by means,

The weakest, 2 Kings v. 2, 3. 2 Chron. xiv. 9—14; xx. 22—24; xxii. 10, 11.

The most circuitous, Gen. xlvi. 5—7. Exod. xiii. 18, 19. Deut. xxxiii. 10. Ps. cvii. 4—7.

The most improbable, Rom. xi. 11, 12, 30—32.

The most seemingly casual, Gen. xxiv. 15. Exod. xxi. 13. 1 Sam. xvii. 17, 49. 1 Kings xxii. 34.

Esth. iv. 7, 13. Prov. xvi. 33. Luke ii. 1—7. The most apparently unimportant, Esth. vi. 1.

John iv. 6, 7, 39—41.

The most opposite to man's purpose, Gen. xi. 4—8; l. 20. Acts viii. 1—4; xi. 19. Phil. i. 12.

**II. Mysteries of power.**

Mark the Almighty God,

Infatuating the counsels of earth and hell against his Church, Exod. i. 12, 17. Numb. xxiv. 10. 2 Sam. xvii. 14. Ps. ii. 1—6. Matt. ii. 8—16. Acts ix. 1—6.

Using the wrath of men for the discipline of his people, Ps. xvii. 14; lxxvi. 10. Isa. x. 5—7.

Directing the wills of men for the good of his Church, Gen. xxxix. 21. Exod. xii. 35, 36. Ezra i. 1; vi. 22. Esth. ii. 9, 15: v. 2. Prov. xvi. 7. Isa. xvi. 3, 4.

Over-ruling the sins of men for his own purposes, Gen. xxvii. 19. 2 Kings ix. 24—26; x. 30, 31. 2 Chron. x. 15. Acts ii. 23; iv. 27, 28. Phil. i. 16—18.

Delivering his people in the greatest extremities, Gen. xxii. 10—14. Exod. xiv. 3, 4, 22. Deut. xxxii. 36. 1 Sam. xxiii. 26—28.

Fulfilling the exact time of his prophecies, Gen. xv. 13. Exod. xii. 40, 41. Gen. xlix. 10. Matt. ii. 1.

Guiding the most contingent circumstances to the accomplishment of prophecy, John xix. 22, 24, 28, 33—37.

Subserving his providence to the purposes of his grace, Esth. iv. 14. Ezek. i. 16—20. Eph. i. 11. Phil. i. 19.

### III. Mysteries of love.

See the infinite love of God,

In making all things, apparently against, as well as for, his people, to work for their good, Gen. xlvi. 36, with xlvi. 27, 28; xlvi. 1—4. Deut. xxiii. 5. Rom. viii. 28. Phil. i. 12, 13.

In the present purpose of his afflictive dispensations, Deut. viii. 2, 3. Judges xiv. 14. 2 Cor. xii. 7. Heb. xii. 10, 11.

In their final and happy issue, Deut. viii. 16. Isa. xlvi. 16. Jer. xxix. 11.

1. Study providence carefully in the use of the appointed means, Ps. lxxiii. 2, 16, 17. Hab. ii. 1, 2.
2. Be not hasty in judging providences, Gen. xlvi. 36. Ps. xxxi. 22; cxvi. 11. Eccles. iii. 11. John xiii. 7. 1 Cor. iv. 5.
3. Do not limit the providence of God, Gen. xviii. 10—15. Ps. lxxviii. 19, 20, 41. Luke i. 18—20. Mark vii. 14—21.
4. Trust yourself unreservedly in the hands of God, Job xxxv. 14. Ps. xxxvii. 5—7. Isa. l. 10. 1 Pet. iv. 19.
5. Do not murmur against his will and discipline, Exod. xvi. 3, 6, 8; xvii. 3. 1 Sam. iii. 18.
6. Wait patiently for the issue of all, Job xxiii.

8—10. Prov. xxiii. 18. Eccles. vii. 8. James v. 11.

7. Exercise yourself in adoring praise, Deut. xxxii. 3, 4. Ps. xxxvi. 6; xcii. 5. Isa. xxv. 1. Rom. xi. 33. Rev. xv. 3.

8. Justify God in all his dispensations, Job ii. 10. Ps. xcvi. 2; cxix. 75. Isa. xxxix. 8.

9. Pray to have no will but his in everything, Matt. vi. 10; xxvi. 39—42. Acts xxi. 14.



## LXXXII.

### Acts iii. 22.

I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, who shall fulfil all my will.

How striking is the identity of religion under the two dispensations!

Set the man after God's own heart by the side of a New Testament believer,

And observe the perfect agreement—

#### I. In their faith.

Renouncing all self-righteous dependence, Ps. cxxx. 3; cxliii. 2, with Phil. iii. 9.

Resting all hope on the righteousness of Christ, Ps. xxxii. 1, 2, with Rom. iv. 6—8. Phil. iii. 9.

Cleansing their souls in his precious blood, Ps. li. 7, with Heb. x. 22. 1 John i. 7.

Enlightened with a view of the offices of Christ, Ps. lxxxix. 19—27; cx. with Heb. i. 3; x. 12—14.

Acknowledging the grace and teaching of the

Holy Spirit, Ps. li. 11, 12; cxliii. 10, with Gal. v. 16. 1 Cor. ii. 10—13.

Apprehending the extent and spirituality of the Divine law, Ps. cxix. 96, with Rom. vii. 7, 14. James ii. 10.

Confessing a lively faith as the principle of obedience, Ps. cxix. 166, with Gal. v. 6.

Tracing all to sovereign grace, 2 Sam. vii. 18, 19. Ps. cxv. 1, with 1 Cor. iv. 7; xv. 10. Gal. i. 15.

## II. In their character.

Instantly obedient to the call of God, Ps. xxvii. 8; cxix. 59, 60, with Matt. iv. 20—22; ix. 9. Acts xxvi. 16—19.

Confessing themselves to be strangers and pilgrims upon earth, 1 Chron. xxix. 15. Ps. xxxix. 12; cxix. 19, with Heb. ix. 13; xiii. 14. 1 Pet. ii. 11.

Separate in spirit from the world, Ps. xxvi. 4, 5; cxix. 115, with John xv. 19; xvii. 14. 2 Cor. vi. 14—17.

Bearing testimony before the world, Ps. cxix. 46, with Acts iv. 19; v. 29.

Persevering in despite of reproach and affliction, Ps. cxix. 23, 69, 83, with Acts xx. 23, 24.

United to the whole family of God, Ps. xvi. 3; cxix. 63, with 1 Cor. i. 2. Eph. vi. 24.

Delighting in the law of God, Ps. i. 2; cxix. 72, 92, 97, 103, with Rom. vii. 22.

Diligent in the exercises of communion with God, Ps. lv. 17; cix. 4; cxix. 145—149, 164, with 1 Thess. v. 17, 18.

Zealous for the honour of God, Ps. cxix. 139, with Acts xiv. 14; xvii. 16.

Tenderly concerned for the salvation of his fellow-creatures, Ps. cxix. 136, 158, with Rom. ix. 1—3; x. 1.

Anxiously regarding the interests of the Church, Ps. xiv. 7; li. 18; cxxii. 6—9, with Phil. ii. 17. 2 Tim. ii. 10.

Longing for progress in the ways of God, Ps. cxix. 20, 131, with Phil. iii. 12—14.

Devoted and self-denying in the service of God, Text. Ps. cxvi. 16; cxix. 38, 62, with 1 Cor. vi. 19, 20. 2 Cor. xi. 26—28.

### III. In their conflicts.

With the power of corruption, Ps. xxxviii. 4; cxix. 25, with Rom. vii. 24. Gal. v. 17.

With besetting temptations, 2 Sam. xxiv. 1, with Matt. xxiv. 35. 2 Cor. xii. 7.

With the scorn and opposition of the world, Ps. cxix. 23, 51; cxxiii. 4, with 1 Cor. iv. 13. 2 Tim. iii. 12. Heb. x. 33.

With the feeling of desolation from the loss of friends, Ps. xxxviii. 11; lxxxviii. 18, with Matt. xxvi. 56; Acts xx. 37, 38. 2 Tim. iv. 16.

With manifold afflictions, Ps. xlvi. 7, with 1 Pet. i. 6; iv. 12.

### IV. In their confidence.

Committing themselves to the constant care of God, Ps. cxxi. 7, 8, with Phil. iv. 6, 7. 1 Pet. v. 7.

Cheered by the encouraging recollection of past experience, 1 Sam. xvii. 37. Ps. xlvi. 6; lvi. 13, with 2 Cor. i. 10. 2 Tim. iv. 17, 18.

Realizing a present God, Ps. xlvi. 11; xlvi. 1—3, with Rom. viii. 31.

Sustained in the utter destitution of human resources, 1 Sam. xxx. 6, with 2 Tim. iv. 16, 17.

Apprehending the fruitfulness of affliction, Ps. xciv. 12, 13; cxix. 67, 71, 75, with Heb. xii. 5—11. Rev. iii. 19.

Taking firm hold of the Gospel in spiritual conflict, Ps. xiii. 1—5; lxv. 3, with Rom. vii. 24, 25.

Assured of the completion of the work of grace, Ps. cxxxviii. 8, with Phil. i. 6.

Triumphant in the near and solemn prospect of eternity, Ps. xxiii. 4; xxxi. 5; lxxiii. 26, with 2 Tim. i. 12; iv. 6—8. 2 Pet. i. 14.

#### V. In their privileges.

Rejoicing in a sense of adoption, Ps. cxix. 94, with Gal. iv. 6.

Living upon God as his portion, Ps. xvi. 5; cxix. 57, with Rom. v. 11.

Having continual access to God, Ps. xxv. 5, with Heb. x. 19, 20; xiii. 15.

Delighting to set forth the Saviour's name, Ps. xlv. 1, with Rev. i. 5, 6.

Walking in the liberty of the ways of God, Ps. cxix. 32, 45, with Luke i. 74. Rom. viii. 15. 2 Cor. iii. 17. Gal. iv. 6, 7.

Assured of final salvation, 2 Sam. xxiii. 5, with Rom. viii. 35—39.

Enjoying bright prospects of eternity, Ps. xvi. 11; xvii. 15, with 2 Cor. v. 1—5. Phil. iii. 20, 21. 1 Pet. i. 3, 4.

How clearly is the full character of a man of God connected with the best happiness of this world, and the only happy prospects of eternity!

## LXXXIII.

## 2 CHRONICLES xv. 17.

But the high places were not taken away out of Israel; nevertheless the heart of Asa was perfect all his days.

Asa's history, like David's, illustrates the uniform character of godliness, but with a more full connection with besetting infirmities.

Scripture describes the biography—not of saints made perfect—but of saints in a body of sin.

It therefore marks their corruptions as well as their graces—

And stamps their uprightness of heart, notwithstanding their remaining corruptions.

*Nevertheless, the heart of Asa was perfect all his days.*

Mark,

## I. His excellencies.

Zealous for the service of God, xiv. 3—5. John ii. 13—17. Gal. iv. 18.

Exercising simple faith, xiv. 9—11; xx. 12; xxxii. 7, 8. Heb. xi. 34. 2 Cor. i. 8—10; iii. 5; xii. 9, 10.

Dedicating his substance to God, 18. 1 Chron. xxix. 1—17. Acts iv. 34—37.

Employing his influence for God, 8, 9; xiv. 4. Gen. xviii. 19. Jos. xxiv. 15. Ezra x. 7, 8. Neh. xiii. 9, 19, 22. Ps. ci. 2—8. Matt. xxv. 15, 16.

Engaging his people for God, 10—14; xxiii. 16; xxix. 10, 11; xxxiv. 31, 32. Acts xi. 23.

Rejoicing with them in the ways of God, 15 ;  
 xxiii. 16—21. Acts ii. 46, 47 ; ix. 31.  
 Supremely regarding God above natural obliga-  
 tions, 16. Deut. xxxiii. 8, 9. Matt. x. 37.  
 Luke xiv. 26 ; ii. 46—51. 2 Cor. v. 16.

Thus was “his heart perfect with God.”  
 Yet were these graces mixed with,

## II. Grievous infirmities.

Even God’s children are left to themselves,  
 To humble their self-confidence, xxxii. 25—31.  
 To make them know their own weakness, Matt.  
 xxvi. 35. 1 Cor. x. 12.  
 To show the necessity of a free salvation, Ps.  
 cxxx. 3 ; cxliii. 2.  
 To magnify Divine forbearance, Mark vii. 14—24.  
 2 Pet. iii. 15.  
 To display the riches of Divine forgiveness, Ps.  
 xxxii. 5, 6.  
 To commend the holy faithfulness of the Divine  
 covenant, 2 Sam. vii. 14, 15. Ps. lxxxix. 30  
 —32.

Asa’s infirmities were shown in,

Indecision, Text, with 2 Kings xviii. 3, 4.  
 Unbelief, xvi. 8. Gen. xii. 1—4, 11—13. Heb.  
 iii. 12.  
 Human dependence, xvi. 1—7, 12. Jer. xvii.  
 5. Mark ix. 18, 19.  
 Drawing others to sin, xvi. 3. Exod. xxxii. 21.  
 Gal. ii. 11—13.  
 Resistance of reproof, xvi. 10. Jon. iv. 7—9.  
 Gal. iv. 15, 16.  
 Oppression, xvi. 10.

These infirmities were chastened by

Temporal judgments, xvi. 9. 1 Kings xv. 32,  
with 2 Chron. xiv. 5—7; xv. 15, 19.

A clouded end, xvi. 12, 13. 1 Kings xi. 9—13,  
41—43.

How different is the Lord's judgment to man's!  
Text. 1 Sam. xvi. 7.

How humbling are the exhibitions of the people  
of God! xvi. Gen. ix. 21—23. 2 Sam. xi. Matt.  
xxvi. 69—74.

Mark the sure acceptance of a simple reliance on  
the Lord, xiii. 18; xiv. 7. Isa. xxxvii. 14—36. Acts  
iv. 24—31.

Mark the trouble arising from carnal means of  
deliverance, xvi. 1—7, 9. 1 Sam. xxi. 1, 2; xxii. 22.

Mark the ill success in the neglect of waiting upon  
the Lord, Jos. ix. 14—23.



#### LXXXIV.

##### PSALM cxli. 3.

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and  
keep the door of my lips.

Why is this prayer so necessary?

Because our hearts are so full of sin, Gen. vi. 5.  
Matt. xv. 19.

Because out of the abundance of the heart the  
mouth speaketh, Matt. xii. 34.

Because the tongue is an unruly evil, James iii.  
5—7.

Therefore, strict watch must be kept against the sins  
of the tongue.

Against lying, Prov. xii. 19—22.

Against slander and evil-speaking, Tit. iii. 2.  
James iv. 11.

Against idle and foolish talking, Prov. x. 19.  
Ephes. v. 4.

Against unkind and hasty words, Prov. xv. 1.

God alone can keep this watch,

By filling our minds with thoughts of the Saviour,  
Ps. xlv. 1, 2. Matt. xii. 35.

By fixing his word in our hearts, Ps. cxix. 11.

By setting the judgment-day before us, Matt. xii.  
36, 37.

This watch, so kept by the grace of God,

Evidences the maturity of our Christian character,  
James iii. 2.

Qualifies us to be blessings to each other, Prov.  
x. 11, 21.

Sanctifies our lips for their proper use and service,  
Ps. cviii. 1.

Lord, do thou keep my mouth from evil, 1 Chron.  
iv. 10.

Both "keep the door of my lips" from vanity and  
sin (Text),

And open my lips to thy praise, Ps. xix. 14; li. 15.

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### LXXXV.

#### PSALM xc. 14.

O satisfy us early with thy mercy, that we  
may rejoice and be glad all our days.

How suitably does this prayer express the feelings  
of one, whose early desires are drawn towards the  
only source of happiness !

We cannot too early seek the mercy of God,  
2 Chron. xxxiv. 3.

We have needed it from the first moment of our  
lives, Ps. li. 5.

There is no real happiness without it, Ps. iv. 6, 7.  
Eccles. ii. 2.

There is enough in it to satisfy our largest  
desires, Ps. lxiii. 3—6.

There is a sure encouragement and promise of  
finding it, Prov. viii. 17.

But there must be

A hungering and thirsting after it, Ps. cvii. 9.  
Isa. xxvi. 8.

A humble heart to receive it, Isa. lvii. 15.

A determination to part with all for it, Matt.  
xiii. 44—46.

A looking for this mercy of God only in the  
name of Christ, Rom. v. 11. 2 Cor. v. 19.

A young person thus seeking in earnest after the  
mercy of God,

Will not be taken up with vanity, 2 Cor. vi. 17.  
Heb. xi. 24—26.

Will not be content to hear and talk about  
religion, Luke xi. 27, 28.

Will be often in secret and earnest prayer, Ps.  
lv. 16, 17.

Will not be easily hindered, Matt. xi. 12. Phil.  
iii. 12—14.

And such seeking will bring peace and comfort,

Substantial in its nature, Prov. viii. 18—21.

Influential in its effects, 2 Cor. v. 14, 15.

Endless in its duration, Ps. xvi. 11. Isa. xxxv.  
10.

“ Wilt thou not,” therefore, “from this time cry unto me, **My Father**, thou art the guide of my youth ? ”  
Jer. iii. 4.

“ When thou saidst, Seek ye my face ; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek,” Ps. xxvii. 8.

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## LXXXVI.

### LUKE ix. 23.

And he said unto them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

If we would come after Christ here, and be partakers of his glory hereafter, we must follow him in the daily path of self-denial and of the cross.

The perverse will must be brought under, Ps. cxxxii. 1, 2. 2 Cor. x. 5.

The sinful tempers mortified, Col. iii. 5, 8.

The course and pleasures of this world relinquished, Eph. ii. 2. Heb. xi. 24—26.

Self-indulgence and vanity overcome, 1 Cor. ix. 27. 1 Pet. iv. 2—4.

The reproach of the world cheerfully taken up, Acts v. 41. 2 Tim. iii. 12.

The image of our self-denying Lord imprinted upon our daily profession, 2 Cor. iv. 10.

This is not the religion of the world, or of mere outward profession. Nothing but the conversion of the heart to God will enable us thus to follow Christ.

But this is conformity to our Master’s pattern, Rom. xv. 1—3. Phil. ii. 5—7.

It is the rest and liberty of the service of Christ,  
Matt. xi. 29. Ps. cxix. 45, 46.

Abundant strength is provided for the work,  
Isa. xli. 10. 2 Cor. xii. 9.

The road is strewed with promises, Deut. xxxiii.  
25. Heb. xiii. 5.

At the end of the way is heaven, Acts xiv. 22.  
Heb. xi. 26. Rev. vii. 14, 15.

May I be kept steadfast to the spirit of the cross !  
Luke xxii. 28. Acts xx. 23, 24. 1 Pet. iv. 1, 2.

May I guard against that self-righteousness, that  
would pervert the intent of the cross ! Luke xviii.  
11, 12.

May I watch against that bondage, that obscures  
the cheerfulness of the gospel ! Matt. ix. 14—17.

May I be preserved from making a cross for myself  
by my own inconsistent walk ! 1 Pet. ii. 20.

Not waiting to have it put on—may I love the  
cross, take it up, and bear it as the glory of my  
profession ! Matt. v. 10—12. 1 Pet. iv. 14.



## LXXXVII.

### LUKE vi. 37.

Judge not, and ye shall not be judged.

Let us take this rule in connection with other  
Scripture directions, and we shall find that they are  
not contradictory.

It does not forbid us to judge of each other's  
character, Matt. vii. 16—20. 1 John iv. 1.

Or to reprove each other's faults, Lev. xix. 17.  
Matt. xviii. 15.

But it forbids us to judge

Hastily, Josh. xxii. 10—12. 2 Sam. vi. 16—20.

Ps. cxvi. 11. John vii. 24.

Needlessly, Rom. xiv. 4, 5. Col. ii. 16.

Selfishly, 1 Cor. x. 29.

Uncharitably, 1 Sam. xxv. 10. John vii. 3, 4.  
1 Cor. x. 30.

Partially, Isa. xxix. 21. Luke xi. 53, 54. Jas. ii. 4.  
Without sufficient ground, Rom. xiv. 3.

This spirit of judging proceeds from

Blindness to our own faults, Matt. vii. 3—5.  
John viii. 7—9.

High thoughts of our own character, Luke xviii. 9.

Primary concern for our own interests, or those  
of our party, Mark ix. 38—40. John xii. 3—6.

Want of the spirit of the gospel, 1 Cor. xiii. 4—7.

This spirit is forbidden

In consideration of God's mercy to us, Eph. iv.  
31, 32. Tit. iii. 2—4. 1 John iv. 11.

As an infringement upon God's prerogative to  
judge, James iv. 11, 12.

In the recollection of our own liability to the  
same sins, Ezek. xvi. 52. Rom. ii. 1, 21—23.

In the prospect of the day of judgment for us  
all, Rom. xiv. 10—12. 1 Cor. iv. 5.

In the assurance that we shall be dealt with  
according to our judgment of others, ver. 38.  
Matt. vii. 1, 2. James ii. 13.

Let me watch this spirit at home—check it in its  
first rising—look for every fault in myself that I  
think I see in others—and pray for a larger measure  
of the spirit of the gospel—a spirit of humility, to  
think lowly of myself—of love, to think charitably  
of others.

## LXXXVIII.

## PHILIPPIANS ii. 15.

Among whom ye shine as lights in the world.

Influence and responsibility are inseparably connected with a Christian profession.

Unbelief, (Exod. iv. 1,) shrinking from difficulty, (Exod. iv. 10—13,) a false view of our own nothingness, (Jer. i. 6, 7,) may tempt us to hide our light under a bushel.

But in so doing

We cannot throw off our accountableness, Matt. v. 14. Luke xix. 13.

We cast dishonour upon the gospel, Matt. xxv. 24, 25.

We show ourselves unfaithful to our trust, Matt. xxv. 26, 27.

We expose ourselves to fearful condemnation, Matt. xxv. 28—30.

How blessed then is the privilege of receiving light from Christ, and of shining before men in the glory of that light!

We thus shine

When the glory of Christ is our one object, i. 18, 20, 21.

When the mind and character of Christ is our daily pattern, 5, 6.

When we exhibit a large spirit of Christian unity and love, 1, 2; i. 27.

When we are denying ourselves for the sake of others, 3, 20. Rom. xv. 1—3. Gal. v. 13.

When we are helping others in the exercise of godliness, 4. 1 Sam. xxiii. 16. Heb. x. 24.  
When we are laying ourselves out for the work of God, 17, 30.  
When we maintain a watchful rule over our own spirit, 14. Prov. xvi. 32.  
When we manifest a wise and considerate spirit to the world, Text. Col. iv. 5.  
When we exhibit the clear influence of Christian principles, 16 ; iv. 8, 9.  
When we are pressing ardently towards our glorious prize, iii. 12—14.  
When we live as citizens of a heavenly country, iii. 20. Heb. xi. 13—16.

Let us beware of obscuring our light  
By any want of simplicity in faith or practice, Matt. vi. 22, 23.  
By a grasping and covetous spirit, Matt. vi. 31, 32. 1 Tim. vi. 9—11.  
By unnecessary connection with the world, 2 Chron. xviii. 1—3 ; xix. 2. Matt. xxvi. 58.  
By a selfish and vain-glorious spirit, 3, 21. Gal. v. 25, 26.

Recollect that in thus shining as lights in the world

We exhibit the pattern of our Master, Matt. v. 14. John viii. 12.  
We are followers of God himself, Ephes. v. 1, 2.  
We uphold the hands of the ministers of Christ, 18. 2 Cor. iii. 1—3. 1 Thess. iii. 8. 1 John ii. 28. 2 John 8.  
We shall win our fellow-sinners to the gospel, 1 Pet. iii. 1, 2.

We are bringing glory to our God and Father,  
Matt. v. 16. John xv. 8. Phil. i. 11.

We have the sure hope of the acceptance of our  
work, Dan. xii. 3.

“Arise,” therefore; “shine; for thy light is come,  
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee,” Isa. lx.  
1. “Put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem,  
the holy city,” Is. lii. 1. “Put ye on the Lord Jesus  
Christ,” Rom. xiii. 14.

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### LXXXIX.

#### GALATIANS iii. 19.

Wherefore, then, serveth the law?

Every well-instructed Christian will mark the  
importance of this question.

It is the key to the intelligent apprehension of the  
whole gospel.

All our practical acknowledgments of the revelation  
of God are influenced by it.

##### I. What is the Law?

The holy transcript of the image and perfections  
of God.

It was written upon man’s heart in Paradise,  
Gen. ii. 16, 17.

It was republished upon Mount Sinai, Exod.  
xix. 16—20; xxxiv. 28. 2 Cor. iii. 7.

It is still traced upon the conscience of man,  
Rom. i. 32; ii. 15.

##### II. What is the character of the Law?

Just, Ps. xix. 2; cxix. 7, 128, 137, 172. Rom.  
vii. 12.

Holy, Deut. iv. 8. Ps. xix. 8. Rom. vii. 12.  
 Good, Neh. ix. 13. Ps. cxix. 39. Rom. vii. 12,  
 13. 1 Tim. i. 8.  
 Spiritual, Ps. li. 6; cxix. 96. Matt. v. 21—28;  
 xxii. 37. Rom. vii. 7—14.  
 Perfect, Deut. iv. 2; xii. 32. Ps. xix. 7.  
 Universal, Rom. iii. 19.  
 Immutable, Ps. xix. 9. Matt. v. 18. Luke xvi.  
 17.  
 Eternal, Ps. cxix. 89, 160.  
 "The law is good, if a man use it lawfully,"  
 Tim. i. 8.

### III. Wherefore, then, serveth the Law?

Not as a covenant of life.

For man is a transgressor, 1 John iii. 4.  
 The law worketh wrath, Rom. iv. 15.  
 It speaketh condemnation, Rom. vii. 9—11. 2  
 Cor. iii. 6—9. Gal. iii. 10.

It cannot, therefore, justify, 21; ii. 21. Rom.  
 iii. 20; viii. 3.

Not as a principle of life.

For it gives

No release from sin, Rom. vi. 14; vii. 5, 8. 1  
 Cor. xv. 56.  
 No quickening Spirit, 2 Cor. iii. 6. Gal. iii. 2,  
 14; v. 18.  
 No enlivening promises, Heb. viii. 8—10.

But

As a mirror of the holiness of God, Lev. xi. 44.  
 As a restraint to ungodliness, 1 Tim. i. 9, 10.  
 As a means of conviction of sin, Rom. iii. 20; v.  
 20; vii. 7, 13, 14.

As a preparative to the gospel, Rom. ii. ; iii. 1  
—21. Gal. iii. 23, 24.

As the standard of our profession, Matt. v. 43  
—48.

As the rule of our life, Rom. viii. 4; xiii. 8—10.  
1 Cor. ix. 21. Gal. v. 14; vi. 2.

As the means of evangelical obedience, Gal. ii. 19.

Beware of mixing the law with the gospel, Acts xv.  
1. Gal. v. 2—4.

Beware of a self-righteous dependence on the law,  
Rom. ix. 31, 32. Heb. xiii. 10.

Beware of an antinomian neglect of the law, Gal.  
v. 13.

From deliverance from the law as a covenant, draw  
grace to obey it as a rule, Rom. vii. 1—6.

Seek to obey the law from the new motives of the  
gospel, John xiii. 34; xv. 12. Ps. cxix. 29, 32.

Seek to obey the law in the true spirit of the  
gospel, Rom. vii. 6, 16, 22. 2 Cor. iii. 17.



### XC.

#### PSALM xci. 3.

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare  
of the fowler.

The pathway to heaven is full of snares for the  
self-confident and unwary.

Yet the tender-hearted child of God walks safely  
and happily.

There is no uncertainty or peradventure in the  
ground or the promise of his security.

He will be exposed to the fowler's snare; yet—  
Surely he shall deliver thee.

Consider,

I. The character of the fowler.

Subtle in hiding his net, Gen. iii. 1—5. 2 Cor. xi. 3. Prov. i. 17; vii. 23. 2 Thess. ii. 9, 10. Vigilant in improving his opportunities, Matt. iv. 1; xiii. 25, 28, 29.

Active and persevering in his exertions, Job i. 7, 8; ii. 1. Luke iv. 13, with John xiv. 30.

Successful in his work, Gen. iii. 6. Eccles. ix. 12. 2 Tim. ii. 26.

Overspreading the whole earth, Eph. ii. 2, 3. Rev. xii. 9.

II. The snare of the fowler.

He has two wide spheres for his cunning and malice.

1. In the world he beguiles by

Unholy lusts of the flesh, Matt. iv. 3, 4. 1 Cor. vii. 5. Phil. iii. 19.

False promises of earthly glory, Matt. iv. 8, 9.

The evil heart of unbelief, Gen. iii. 3, 4.

Unhallowed ambition, Gen. iii. 5.

Presumptuous confidence, Matt. iv. 5, 6.

Veiling the glories of the gospel, 2 Cor. iv. 4.

2. In the Church he works by

False profession, Acts v. 1—3.

The spirit of division, Matt. xiii. 25. 2 Cor. ii. 10, 11.

Worldly and fleshly lusts, 1 Chron. xxi. 1. John xiii. 2. 1 Tim. vi. 9.

Self-indulgence in the work of Christ, Matt. xvi. 23.

False teachers and doctrine, Hos. ix. 8. 2 Cor. xi. 3—14.

Spiritual pride, 1 Tim. iii. 5, 6.

Religious dissipation, 1 Tim. v. 13—15.

III. Deliverance from the snare of the fowler is secured by

The express promises of safety, Job v. 19. Ps. cxxi. 5—7.

The faithfulness of the covenant, 2—4. 2 Thess. iii. 3.

The intercession of Christ, Luke xxii. 31, 32.

The power of God, 1 Pet. i. 5.

The restraint upon the power of Satan, Job i. 9—12. Rev. ii. 10.

Fear self, Prov. iii. 5; xxviii. 14. Rom. xi. 20.

1 Cor. x. 12.

Walk close with God, 1.

Take hold af the covenant, 2.

Trust Christ, Ps. xxv. 15. Prov. iii. 26. John xvii. 11, 12.

Treasure the word in the heart, Ps. xvii. 4. Prov. iii. 21—23.

Be encouraged by past deliverances, Ps. lvi. 13. 2 Tim. iv. 17, 18.

Cultivate a godly conversation, Prov. xiii. 13; xiv. 27; xxviii. 26. 1 John v. 18.

Acknowledge the deliverances vouchsafed, Ps. cxxiv. 7.



## XCI.

### 2 CHRONICLES xxiv. 2.

And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

There are many hopeful but delusive forms of religious profession illustrated in the history of Joash.

Mark,

I. The character of his religion.

Zealous towards God, 4—6. 2 Kings x. 28—31.  
Showing respect to the servant of God, Text,  
and ver. 16. Mark vi. 20.

Persevering for a while in the ways of God,  
2 Kings xii. 2—6.

II. Its defects.

It was

Partial, not perfect, 2 Kings xii. 3; xiv. 3.  
Hos. x. 2.

Restraint, not love, Text.

Education, not grace, 2 Kings xii. 2.

A regard to the praise of men, not of God, ver.  
17, 18. John xii. 42, 43.

Therefore it was temporary, not abiding, ver. 18.  
Matt. xiii. 20, 21. 1 John ii. 19.

III. Its end, 2 Pet. ii. 20.

Idolatry, ver. 18.

Rebellion, ver. 19.

Persecution, ver. 20, 21.

Apostasy, ver. 22. 2 Tim. iv. 10.

Ruin, ver. 23—25.

Contrast the religion which is the teaching of God, Gal. i. 12, 15, 16.

Contrast the permanent influence of godly instruction, Ps. lxxi. 17. John iii. 1, 2. 2 Tim. i. 5; iii. 14, 15.

Make religion a personal concern.

Remember, education and example do not give grace, John i. 13.

Bless God for wholesome restraint—  
But do not mistake it for grace.

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## XCII.

## ISAIAH liii. 6.

The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity  
of us all.

No one ignorant of the nature, power, and guilt  
of sin, can understand this text;

But to the humbled sinner, it is “good tidings of  
great joy.”

For the sacrifice is all his salvation.

It gives him rest from the works of the law,  
Rom. viii. 1—4. Gal. iii. 10—13.

It brings reconciliation and communion with  
God, Rom. v. 9—11.

It assures his heart with a triumphant con-  
fidence, Rom. viii. 32—34.

It melts him into contrition, Luke xxiii. 48.  
Acts ii. 36, 37.

It constrains him to devotedness, 2 Cor. v. 14,  
15. 1 Pet. ii. 24.

It produces conformity to the image of his  
Saviour, 1 Pet. ii. 24. 2 Cor. iv. 10. Phil.  
iii. 10.

It enables him to meet death with rejoicing,  
1 Cor. xv. 55—57.

The virtue of this sacrifice is its completeness,  
John xix. 30. Heb. x. 14.

The sinner has broken the holy law of God,  
Rom. iii. 20.

He stands speechless and condemned, Rom. iii. 19.

His own righteousness is of no avail, Isa. lxiv. 6.

But Christ is a complete surety for the sinner, Heb. vii. 20—22.

An accepted surety, 2 Cor. v. 21.

And he stands complete and accepted in him, Ephes. i. 6. Col. ii. 10.

Shall we not, by faith, lay our sin where the Lord hath laid it—on him? Lev. xvi. 21.

Shall we dare to trifle with that sin, which cost him such bitter suffering? Zech. xii. 10. Heb. x. 29.

Shall we allow self-righteousness to rob us of the precious hope of full redemption in him? Gal. ii. 21; iii. 12, 13; v. 2—4.

Shall we not rise to the heavenly privilege of praise for this great work? Rev. i. 5.



### XCIII.

LUKE xxiv. 34.

The Lord is risen indeed.

These tidings were to the sorrowing disciples of Jesus “as life from the dead,” ver. 41.

Such ought they to be to us, Acts xiii. 32, 33.

Consider,

I. How blessed the doctrine of Christ’s resurrection!

1. As manifesting the Divine glory of Christ, John ii. 19—21. Acts xiii. 33. Rom. i. 4.

2. As showing the seal of God upon his great

sacrifice, Acts xiii. 34. Rom. iv. 25. 1 Cor. xv. 14, 17—20. 1 Pet. i. 21.

3. As opening the great work of intercession, Rom. viii. 34.
4. As an earnest of our resurrection, Rom. viii. 11. 1 Cor. xv. 20—22. 2 Cor. iv. 14. 1 Thess. iv. 14.
5. As the pledge of the second coming of Christ, Acts x. 40—42; xvii. 31.

## II. How rich its benefits !

1. Victory over all the enemies of salvation, Acts iv. 10, 11. 1 Cor. xv. 55. Rev. i. 17, 18.
2. Union with Christ in his whole work, Eph. ii. 6. Col. ii. 12, 13.
3. The gift of the Holy Spirit, Acts ii. 32, 33.
4. The assured hope of glory, John xiv. 19. 1 Pet. i. 3.

## III. How practical its power ! Phil. iii. 10.

It mortifies the power of sin, Acts iii. 26. Col. iii. 1—5.

It constrains the heart to devotedness, Rom. vi. 10, 11. 2 Cor. v. 14, 15.

It conforms to the full likeness of Christ, Rom. vi. 4, 5.

It fixes the heart and affections on heavenly things, Col. iii. 1.

O Lord, enable me, in the believing contemplation of this glorious subject, to receive the fulness of the doctrine; to enjoy the richness of the privilege; and to manifest completeness of the power of my Lord's resurrection !

## XCIV.

## PSALM lxviii. 18.

Thou hast ascended on high.

When we are most conversant with the shame and humiliation of Christ, we shall be best prepared for the contemplation of his glory.

When the cloud received him out of sight, then was manifested the completeness of his undertaking. The whole Church unites in the song of triumph, "Thou hast ascended on high."

I. What are the fruits of the ascension of Christ ?

The manifestation of his power over Satan,  
Text. Ps. xxiv. 7—10.

The opening of heaven as our forerunner, John  
xiv. 2. Heb. vi. 19, 20.

The application of his great work of redemption,  
Heb. ix. 24; xii. 24.

The pledge of our complete participation of his  
glory, John xiv. 3. Eph. ii. 6.

The outpouring of the Spirit upon his Church,  
Text. John xiv. 16, 17; xvi. 7. Acts ii. 33.

The consequent enriching of his Church with all  
spiritual blessings, Text. Acts v. 31. Eph.  
iv. 8.

The earnest of his second coming, John xiv. 3.  
Acts i. 9—11; iii. 21.

II. What are the practical results connected with it ?

The exhibition of a heavenly profession, Ps.  
xxiv. 3—10. Phil. iii. 20.

The ground of a Christian confidence, Rom.  
viii. 34.

The manifestation of union with our head, John xx. 17.

An enlivening spirit of praise, Ps. xlvii. 5—7. Luke xxiv. 51—53.

Joyful prospects of heaven, Ps. xvi. 11. 1 John iii. 2. Rev. xxi. 23.

May the beholding of the glory of our ascended Saviour assimilate our minds and hearts to his heavenly image! 2 Cor. iii. 18.

May the recollection of his abode and work in heaven constantly raise our hearts and affections thitherward! Col. iii. 1, 2.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that, like as we do believe thy only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to have ascended into the heavens, so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell.

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## XCV.

### HEBREWS vii. 25.

He ever liveth to make intercession for them.

That Jesus "ever liveth," is his self-existence as God, i. 10—12. John viii. 58. Rev. i. 17, 18.

That he "ever liveth" for his people, that is their glory and confidence—a living Saviour, the spring of a "lively hope."

As accused, guilty, condemned—every moment they need his advocacy, Isa. xxxviii. 14.

Not one moment are they left without it, Text.  
"He ever liveth to make intercession for them."

Mark,

**I. The character of his intercession.**

Commissioned, Jer. xxx. 21.  
Compassionate, Heb. ii. 17, 18; iv. 15.  
Constant, Text; 15, 16. Isa. lxii. 1. Rom. viii. 34.  
Prevalent, Ps. ii. 8; xxi. 1, 2. Isa. xlix. 8, 9.  
Zech. i. 12, 13. John xi. 42.

**II. The mode of his intercession.**

Presenting our names, Exod. xxviii. 9—12, 28,  
29. Cant. viii. 6. Heb. ix. 24. Rev. iii. 5.  
Exhibiting the memorials of his death, Lev. xvi.  
15. Heb. ix. 12; xii. 24. Rev. v. 6.  
Perfuming our prayers and services, Lev. xvi.  
12, 13. Cant. iii. 6. Rev. viii. 3.

**III. The matter of his intercession, John xvii.**

The keeping of his people in his Father's care,  
ver. 11.  
The stability of their joy, ver. 13.  
Their covering from the evil of the world, ver. 15.  
Their sanctification through his truth, ver. 17.  
Their perfect union in one body in himself, ver.  
21—23.  
Their participation of his eternal glory, ver. 24.

**IV. The power of his intercession.**

Satisfying the demands of justice, Job xxxiii. 24.  
Rebuking the accusations of the enemy, Zech.  
iii. 1—3.  
Bearing the iniquity of holy things, Exod.  
xxviii. 38.  
Silencing charges from every quarter, Rom. viii.  
33, 34.  
Obtaining all gifts and blessings for his Church,  
John xiv. 16.

Upholding his people under temptation, Text.  
Luke xxii. 31, 32.

Saving them to the end, Text, with Rom. v. 10.

V. The fruits of his intercession in our present experience.

Support under a sense of sin, 1 John ii. 1.

Boldness in our Christian confidence, Heb. x. 21, 22.

Steadfastness in our daily profession, Heb. iv. 14.

Encouragement to persevering prayer, Heb. iv. 16.



## XCVI.

ROMANS viii. 30.

Moreover, whom he did predestinate.

We cannot fathom the mystery of this doctrine.

But we may reverently search into the ground of it.

We may trace its connection with the whole Christian system.

We may detail its practical fruits.

I. The ground of this doctrine lies,

Not in man's foreseen goodness, ix. 11. Gen. vi. 5. 2 Tim. i. 9.

Not in man's will or power, John i. 13; xv. 16. Eph. ii. 1—5. Phil. ii. 13. James i. 18. 1 John iv. 10, 19.

Not in any unjust dispensation of God, ix. 13—15.

But

In the engagement of the everlasting covenant, Isa. liii. 10—12. John xvii. 2, 9, 11, 12.

In the Divine foreknowledge, 29. 1 Pet. i. 2.  
 In the just and holy sovereignty of God, ix.  
 15—18. Deut. vii. 6—8; x. 15. Ps. cxxxv.  
 4—6. Jer. iii. 19. Matt. xx. 15, 16. Eph.  
 i. 5.

In the display of his own glory, Isa. xlivi. 21.  
 Eph. i. 6; iii. 10, 11. 2 Thess. i. 11, 12.

In the unchangeableness of his purpose, xi.  
 2, 29.

II. This doctrine is connected

With man's complete responsibility, Luke xxii.  
 22. Acts ii. 23; iv. 27, 28.

With man's utter helplessness, John vi. 44, 65.

With the power of God's effectual calling, 30.  
 Ps. cx. 3. Jer. xxxi. 3. 2 Thess. ii. 13, 14.  
 2 Tim. i. 9. Rev. xvii. 14.

With the continued long-suffering and goodness  
 of God, ix. 22; xi. 22. Isa. i. 9. Matt. xxiv.  
 21, 22.

With the great ransom of the blood of Christ,  
 Eph. i. 5—7. 1 Pet. i. 2, 18—20.

With the free declarations of his Gospel, John  
 vi. 37.

With all needful blessings for time and eternity,  
 30. Matt. xx. 23; xxv. 34. Luke xii. 32.  
 Eph. i. 3, 4, 11.

With the eternal election of Christ as the head  
 of his people, 29. Isa. xlivi. 1, 6. Eph. i. 4,  
 9, 10; iii. 11. 2 Tim. i. 9. 1 Pet. i. 20.

III. The practical fruits of this doctrine are manifest.

Does it minister to pride? xi. 20. 1 Cor. iv. 7.

Does it encourage sin? 29; John xv. 16. Eph.  
 i. 4; ii. 10. 2 Thess. ii. 13. 2 Tim. ii. 19.

Does it engender despondency? John vi. 37.

It strips us of self-righteousness, xi. 5, 6.  
It gives to God the glory of his own work, Ps. cxv. 1. 1 Cor. i. 27—29.  
It fills us with fervent thankfulness, Luke x. 20. Eph. i. 3, 4. 1 Pet. i. 2, 3.  
It establishes our confidence, 28—39. 1 Sam. xii. 22. Zech. iii. 2. Luke xviii. 7, 8.  
It quickens our exertions, Phil. ii. 12, 13. 2 Pet. i. 10.  
It prepares us for the cross, Isa. xlvi. 10. John xv. 19.  
It excites to all the exercises of practical godliness, Deut. x. 15, 16. Col. iii. 12, 13. 1 Thess. iv. 3—7; v. 8, 9.

#### For caution—

Beware of an exclusive or disproportionate application of this doctrine, Acts xx. 20, 21, 27. 1 Cor. iii. 2.  
Beware of stopping short of a full reception of it, Heb. v. 12—14; vi. 1.  
Beware of considering it in a reasoning spirit, ix. 18—23.  
Beware of abusing it for the indulgence of sin, Jer. vii. 8—11; xviii. 1—6, 12. 2 Pet. iii. 15, 16. Jude 4.

#### For instruction—

Reverence the deep mystery of this doctrine, xi. 33—36. Matt. xi. 25, 26.  
Never separate it from its connections or practical fruits. (See III.)  
Do not let an imperfect apprehension of it hinder an immediate apprehension of the Gospel, John vi. 28, 29.  
Take the broad provisions of the Gospel as the

ground of your present faith, Isa. lv. 1—3.  
Matt. xi. 28. Article xvii.

Make your election sure by the evidence of a  
holy calling, 1 Thess. i. 3—5. 2 Pet. i.  
5—10.

Lie in the dust as creatures destitute of all good,  
2 Sam. vii. 18—20. Job xl. 4. Ps. cxv. 1.

Awaken your song, as creatures infinitely in-  
debted to the grace of God, Isa. xii. 1—3.

For encouragement—

Expect from this fountain of sovereign grace a  
large and refreshing blessing, Isa. li. 1—3.

Rejoice in the security of your eternal salvation,  
Text; ix. 23. 1 Thess. v. 9. 2 Thess. ii.  
13, 14.



## XCVII.

ROMANS viii. 30.

Moreover, whom he did predestinate, them  
he also called.

If God designs an end, he provides the means to  
manifest and secure his end, Isa. xlvi. 10.

And therefore, “whom he did predestinate, them  
he also called.”

Their election is the security of their calling, John  
vi. 37.

Their calling is the fruit and proof of their elec-  
tion, 1 Thess. i. 3—5.

Man does not come to God of himself—

By the inclination of his own will, viii. 7. John  
i. 13; v. 40.

By the light of human wisdom, i. 22. 1 Cor. i. 21. Ephes. iv. 18.

By the power of his own judgment, Luke xii. 57.

By the force of moral suasion, Matt. xxiii. 37.

By the best of human means, 1 Cor. iii. 6, 7.

But by the almighty agency of God, Jer. xxxi. 18. John vi. 44.

Of the Father, John vi. 45. 1 Cor. i. 9.

Of the Son, i. 6. Isa. lv. 1—3. John v. 25. 2 Pet. i. 3. Rev. ii. 7; iii. 20.

Of the Holy Ghost, Acts ii. 38, 39.

All the Scripture images prove it to be exclusively the work of God, Eph. i. 19.

Quickening the dead, Eph. ii. 1—5. Col. ii. 12, 13.

New creating the soul, John iii. 3—5. 2 Cor. v. 17. Eph. ii. 10.

Renewing the will, Ps. cx. 3. Phil. ii. 13.

Giving the hearing ear and heart, Prov. xx. 12. John viii. 47. Acts xvi. 14.

Turning from darkness to light, Acts xxvi. 18. 2 Cor. iv. 6. Eph. v. 8.

Converting from the creature to himself, Matt. xviii. 3.

The character of this calling is,

A high and heavenly calling, Phil. iii. 14. Heb. iii. 1.

A holy calling, i. 7. 1 Cor. i. 2. 1 Thess. iv. 7. 2 Tim. i. 9.

A free calling, Rom. ix. 11. 1 Cor. i. 26—29. Gal. i. 15. James i. 18.

A faithful and unchangeable calling, xi. 29. 1 Cor. i. 9. 1 Thess. v. 24.

The means employed are,

The power of Divine grace, Isa. liii. 1. Matt. iv. 18—22; ix. 9.

The lifting up of the cross of Christ, John xii. 32. Acts ii. 36—39.

The hearing of the word, x. 17. 1 Thess. ii. 13. James i. 18. 1 Pet. i. 23.

The influence of sanctified affliction, 2 Chron. xxxiii. 12, 13. Dan. iv. 36, 37.

Special circumstances of Providence, Luke xix. 1—9. John iv. 4—7.

The sinner by means of this calling is born,

With a new life, 2 Cor. v. 7. Gal. ii. 20.

With new habits and tempers, Col. iii. 5—10. 1 Pet. iv. 1—3.

For a new object, Phil. i. 21. Acts ix. 6.

Unto a new and glorious end, ix. 23. 2 Thess. ii. 14. Heb. xi. 16.

Let us learn to distinguish between outward and effectual calling, Matt. xx. 16; xxii. 9—14. Luke vii. 32.

Let us give diligence to make our calling sure, 2 Pet. i. 10.

Let us connect with it the power and privilege of the gospel for time and eternity, 28—30. Isa. xlivi. 1—4. 1 Cor. i. 24. 1 Tim. vi. 12. 1 Pet. iii. 9; v. 10. 2 Pet. i. 3.

Let it prepare us for all the trials of our Christian profession, 1 Thess. iii. 3, 4. 1 Pet. ii. 20, 21; v. 10.

Let us apply it as a constraining principle of Christian consistency and devotedness, Eph. iv. 1—4. Col. iii. 12—15. 1 Thess. ii. 11, 12. 1 Pet. i. 15, 16; ii. 9.

## XCVIII.

## ROMANS viii. 30.

And whom he called, them he also justified.

The "called," people of God, "were by nature even as others."

Without strength, v. 6.

Children of wrath, Eph. ii. 3.

Alienated from God, v. 8. Eph. ii. 12. Col. i. 21.

Under the condemnation of the law, iii. 9—19.

Gal. iii. 10.

Under the power of sin, iii. 23; iv. 5; v. 6, 8.

Gal. iii. 22. Tit. iii. 3.

But, "whom he called, them he also justified,"

As their lawgiver, Isa. xxxiii. 22.

As their judge, 33. Ps. cxxx. 3, 4. Heb. xii. 23.

As a God of sovereign mercy, Isa. xlivi. 25.

Jer. iii. 19.

As their reconciled God, 2 Cor. v. 19. Col. i. 21.

The source of this justification is the free grace of God, iii. 24; iv. 5. Eph. ii. 8. Tit. iii. 4—7.

The ground of it is the blood and righteousness of Christ, iii. 25; v. 9, 15—21. Isa. liii. 11. Dan. ix. 24. 2 Cor. v. 19—21.

The proof of its acceptance with God is the resurrection of Christ, iv. 25.

The support of it is the constant intercession of Christ, v. 10; viii. 34. Heb. x. 21, 22. 1 John ii. 1.

The revelation of it is the gospel of Christ, i. 16, 17; iii. 21.

The means of apprehending it is faith, i. 17; iii. 22, 25, 30; iv. 3, 16, 23, 24. Isa. liii. 11.

The seals of it to true believers are the Christian

sacraments, iv. 11. Acts xxii. 16. Col. ii. 11, 12. Matt. xxvi. 28.

See the glory that redounds to God—

In the perfect satisfaction made to his law, x.

4. Job xxxiii. 23, 24. Isa. xlvi. 21.

In the harmonious display of his perfections, iii.

25, 26. Ps. lxxxv. 10. Isa. xlvi. 21. 1 John i. 9.

In raising to himself a people for his service,  
Rev. v. 9, 10; vii. 9, 10.

See also the sinner's confidence and ground of  
rejoicing—

In the blotting out of the hand-writing, complete  
deliverance from the covenant of the law,  
vii. 1—6, 9. Gal. ii. 19; iii. 13. Eph. ii. 13,  
15. Col. ii. 14.

In the full forgiveness of all transgressions, Ps.  
xxxii. 1, 2; lxxxv. 1—3; ciii. 1—3, 12. Jer.  
xxxii. 34.

In the removal of condemnation from every  
quarter, 1, 33. Jer. 1. 20. John iii. 18; v.  
24. Acts xiii. 38, 39.

In the security against the dominion of sin,  
vi. 6, 14.

In the acceptance of all his services, Gen. iv. 4.  
Heb. xi. 4. 1 Pet. ii. 4, 5. Rev. viii. 3, 4.

In the enjoyment of all the present privileges  
of the Gospel, v. 1—5, 11.

In the sure possession of everlasting life, Ps.  
xxxiii. 24. John vi. 47. Tit. iii. 7. 1 John  
v. 11, 12.

Let us acknowledge our utter inability to stand  
before God, Job ix. 2, 3, 21. Ps. cxliii. 2.

Let us deprecate all dependence on our righteousness,  
Isa. lxiv. 6. Phil. iii. 3, 7—9.

Let us not abuse this full and free justification, v. 20; vi. 1, 2.

Let us rejoice in our security and completeness in Christ, Isa. xlv. 24, 25. Jer. xxiii. 6. Col. ii. 10.

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord; and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord, Isa. liv. 17.

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### XCIX.

ROMANS viii. 30.

Them he also glorified.

The chain of the Divine purposes reaches in unbroken connection from eternity to eternity, ix. 23.

The present state of grace is therefore the earnest of eternal glory, 2 Cor. v. 5. Eph. i. 13, 14.

For "whom he justified, them he also glorified."

#### I. At death—

They sleep in Jesus, Acts vii. 60. 1 Thess. iv. 14.

They enter into rest, Isa. lvii. 2. Heb. iv. 9.  
Rev. xiv. 13.

Their spirits are made perfect, Heb. xii. 23.

They are with their Lord, Luke xxiii. 42, 43.  
2 Cor. v. 6—8. Phil. i. 23.

They are in communion with the family of heaven, Luke xvi. 23. Heb. xii. 23.

They are eternally secured from evil, Luke xvi. 26.

#### II. At the resurrection-day—

Their bodies shall rise in the likeness of their

Lord, Ps. xvii. 15. Isa. xxvi. 19. 1 Cor. xv. 42—49. Phil. iii. 21. 1 John iii. 2.

Their victory over the grave shall be completed, Isa. xxv. 8. Hos. xiii. 14. 1 Cor. xv. 54—57. 2 Cor. v. 4.

They shall reflect the glory of their Lord to the world, 2 Thess. i. 10.

Their reproach and shame shall be for ever done away, Isa. xxv. 8. Mal. iii. 17, 18. Col. iii. 4.

They will be confessed by their Lord before the assembled universe, Matt. x. 32; xxv. 34—40. 1 Thess. iv. 14. Rev. iii. 5; xxi. 9, 10.

They shall be assessors with him in the judgment of the world, Ps. llix. 14. Zech. xiv. 5. Matt. xix. 28. 1 Cor. vi. 2, 3. Jude 14, 15. Rev. ii. 26, 27.

They shall be welcomed to their everlasting inheritance, Ps. xlvi. 15. Matt. xxv. 34.

They shall be admitted to share the joy of their Lord, Matt. xxv. 21, 23. John xvii. 26.

### III. Throughout eternity—

They shall be fixed in their heavenly home, Ps. xxiii. 6. Matt. viii. 11. Rev. iii. 12.

They shall shine in the kingdom of God, Dan. xii. 2, 3. Matt. xiii. 43. Rev. ii. 28.

They shall behold the glory and face of their Saviour, John xvii. 24. Isa. xxxiii. 17. 1 Cor. xiii. 12. 1 John iii. 2. Rev. xxii. 4.

They shall dwell in the enjoyment of his presence, Isa. lx. 19, 20. John xii. 26; xiv. 3. 1 Thess. iv. 17. Rev. vii. 9, 15; xxi. 2, 3, 22, 23.

They shall rest and reign with him in his

kingdom, 17. Luke xxii. 29, 30. 2 Tim. ii. 12. Rev. iii. 21.

They shall be ministered to by his tender condescension, Luke xii. 37. Rev. vii. 17.

They shall be delivered from all the consequences of sin, Isa. xxv. 8; xxxiii. 24; xxxv. 10. Rev. vii. 17; xxi. 4; xxii. 3.

They shall have an abundant supply for every want, Rev. ii. 7; vii. 16; xxi. 7; xxii. 1, 2.

They shall be adorned with a crown of life and glory, 2 Tim. iv. 8. Rev. ii. 10.

As heirs of this glory, what manner of persons should we be? 2 Pet. iii. 11.

Mortifying the corruptions of the flesh, Col. iii. 4, 5. 1 John iii. 2, 3.

Living above the world, Phil. iii. 20. Col. iii. 1, 2. Luke xxi. 34—36. Heb. xi. 16, 26.

Joyfully enduring the cross, 17. Ps. xxxi. 18—20. Luke xxii. 28, 29. 2 Cor. iv. 17, 18. 2 Thess. i. 7—10. 2 Tim. i. 12. Heb. x. 34; xi. 26, 35. James i. 12. 1 Pet. i. 3—6; iv. 12, 13. Rev. ii. 10.

Exercising constant and increasing diligence, Heb. vi. 11, 12. 2 Pet. iii. 13, 14.

Abounding in praise, Col. i. 12. 1 Pet. i. 3—5.

Established in our confidence, Luke xii. 32.

Rejoicing in present favour as the earnest of heaven, v. 2. Ps. lxxiii. 23, 24. Eph. i. 13, 14. Col. i. 27.

Triumphing over the fear of death, 2 Cor. v. 1—5. 2 Tim. iv. 6—8.

Looking and longing for the coming of the Lord, 1 Pet. i. 13. 2 Pet. iii. 12, 13. Rev. xxii. 20.

We beseech thee to accomplish the number of thine elect, and to hasten thy kingdom, that we, with all those who are departed this life in thy faith and fear, may have our perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in thy eternal and everlasting glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## C.

## ROMANS viii. 29.

Whom he did foreknow, he also did pre-destinate to be conformed to the image of his Son.

The glorification of the believer begins on earth.

In his participation of the Divine nature, 2 Pet. i. 4.

In his conformity to the Divine image, Text; xiii. 14. Ps. xlv. 13. 2 Cor. iii. 18. Eph. iv. 24.

In the resting of the Spirit of glory upon him, 1 Pet. iv. 14.

In the seal and earnest of the heavenly inheritance, 2 Cor. i. 21, 22; v. 5. Eph. i. 13, 14.

This is the great work of sanctification—

Connected with

The purpose of God, Text; i. 7. Deut. vii. 7. Eph. i. 4; ii. 10. 1 Thess. iv. 3. 2 Thess. ii. 14. 2 Tim. i. 9. 1 Pet. i. 2.

The work of Christ, Isa. lxi. 1—3. Matt. i. 21. John i. 14, 16. Acts iii. 26. 2 Cor. v. 14, 15. Gal. i. 4. Eph. v. 25—27. Tit. ii. 14,

Heb. ix. 14, 1 Pet. ii. 24; iv. 1. 1 John iii. 8.

The agency of the Spirit, 13. John iii. 5. 2 Cor. iii. 18. Gal. v. 16, 22—25. 2 Thess. ii. 14. Tit. iii. 5, 6. 1 Pet. i. 2.

This Divine agency is manifested

In purifying the heart from sin, 13. Isa. iv. 4. Gal. v. 16.

In preparing us for the worship and service of God, Phil. iii. 3. Rom. xv. 16.

In shedding abroad the love of God in the heart, v. 5. 2 Thess. iii. 5.

In exciting to all practical obedience, Isa. xliv. 3—5. Ezek. xxxvi. 27. 1 Pet. i. 22.

In implanting all Christian tempers, Gal. v. 22, 23. Eph. v. 9. Col. i. 8.

The subject of this sanctification is the whole man, 1 Thess. v. 23.

The members of the body are consecrated, vi. 13—19; xii. 1. 1 Cor. vi. 15, 19, 20.

The unholly affections of the soul are crucified, Gal. v. 24—26. Col. iii. 5—9.

The spirit of the mind is renewed, xii. 2. Eph. iv. 23.

The life and conversation is ordered, Col. iii. 12—15. 1 Pet. i. 15.

The means of sanctification are,

A living union with Christ, vii. 4. John xv. 4, 5. 1 Cor. i. 30. 1 John iii. 24.

The spiritual revelation of his glory, 2 Cor. iii. 18.

The directing light of the word, Ps. cxix. 9, 11, 104, 133.

The ministration and power of the Gospel, Luke i. 74, 75. John xv. 3; xvii. 17—19. Acts xxvi. 17, 18. Eph. v. 26. Tit. ii, 11, 12. 1 Pet. i. 23; ii. 2.

The believing application of the death of Christ, 3; vi. 6. Phil. iii. 10.

The complete interest in his whole work, vi. 4, 5. Col. ii. 11, 12; iii. 1—5.

The immediate influence of the promises of the Gospel, 2 Cor. vii. 1. 2 Pet. i. 4. 1 John iii. 2, 3.

The working of a living faith, Acts xv. 9; xxvi. 18. Gal. v. 16.

The discipline of the cross, Job xxiii. 10. Ps. xciv. 12; cxix. 67—71. Isa. i. 25; xxvii. 9; xlvi. 10. Dan. xi. 35; xii. 10. Mal. iii. 3. John xv. 2. Heb. xiii. 5—11.

The character of this work is progressive, 2 Cor. iii. 18. 2 Thess. i. 3. 2 Pet. iii. 18.

Illustrated by,

The journey of the pilgrim, Ps. lxxxiv. 7. Job xvii. 9. Isa. xl. 31. Col. ii. 6.

The course of the sun, Prov. iv. 18.

The different stages of the seed, Mark iv. 26—29.

The growth of the members with their head, Eph. iv. 15, 16. Col. ii. 19.

The progress of the human mind and stature, Heb. v. 12—14. 1 John ii. 12—14.

The intent of this work is,

That we may be

Vessels for the service of God, ix. 23. 2 Tim. ii. 21.

Temples for the honour of God, 1 Cor. iii. 16, 17.

Meet for the inheritance of God, Col. i. 12. Heb. xii. 14. Rev. xxi. 27.

The evidences of this work are,

An increasing sense of defilement, vii. 24. Job xlii. 5, 6.

Ardent desires for the ultimate object, Phil. iii. 11—15.

Active exercises in the service of God, 1 Thess. i. 3, 6, 7.

The spirit of Christian love, Eph. i. 4. 1 Thess. iii. 12, 13. 1 Pet. i. 22. 1 John iv. 7, 16.

Let us consider the divine standard of our sanctification, Matt. v. 44—48. Eph. iv. 31, 32; v. 1, 2. 1 Pet. ii. 21, 22.

Let us acknowledge the obligation of the gospel rule, Heb. xii. 14. 1 Pet. i. 16.

Let us make use of the full provision for constant advancement, Zech. x. 12. John xv. 4, 5. 2 Cor. vii. 1. 2 Pet. i. 4.

Let us regard the glory of God in our sanctification, Isa. lxi. 3. John xv. 8. Phil. i. 11.

Let us rejoice in the reward of grace connected with it, Heb. vi. 10. Rev. xxii. 14.

Let us anticipate the blissful period of our complete sanctification, Ps. xvii. 15. Phil. iii. 21. 1 John iii. 2.

Let us rest in the faithful assurance of this heavenly consummation, Ps. cxxxviii. 8. Phil. i. 6. 1 Thess. v. 23, 24.

## CI.

## PSALM lxxiv. 20.

Have respect unto the covenant; for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty.

Here is the mourning of God's people over the desolation of the heathen world, and their pleading for the coming of the Saviour's kingdom.

I. How affecting is the description!

Darkness—cruelty!

Mark,

The origin of heathenism, Rom. i. 19—21, 26, 28.

Its impiety, Jer. ii. 10—13. Rom. i. 22, 23, 28.

Its degradation, Ps. cxv. 5—8. Isa. xliv. 10—19; xlv. 20. 1 Cor. xii. 2.

Its pollution, Ezek. xx. 30, 31. Rom. i. 26, 27. Eph. iv. 19.

Its cruelty, Text. 2 Kings iii. 27. Ps. cvi. 35—38. Rom. i. 31.

Its wretchedness, 1 Kings xviii. 26—29. Ps. xvi. 4. Isa. xliv. 20.

Its responsibility, Rom. i. 19—21, 28; ii. 14, 15.

Its ruin, Prov. xxix. 18. Rom. ii. 12. Eph. ii. 12. 1 John v. 19.

II. How cheering the hope of heathen conversion!

God will "have respect to his covenant," Ps. cxi. 5.

He has given the heathen as the inheritance of his Son, Ps. ii. 8; lxxxii. 8. Isa. xliv. 1—7; xlix. 6—8.

He has engaged to gather them from every part of the earth, Isa. xlix. 12. Zech. ix. 10, 11.

He has commanded the preaching of the gospel for their conversion, Mark xvi. 15. Acts xiii. 46; xxviii. 28. Rom. x. 13—17.

His Son is pleading the covenant on their behalf, Isa. lxii. 1. John xvii. 21.

III. Let us therefore plead the covenant, Isa. lxii. 5, 6. In deep concern for the dishonour of God, Acts xiv. 13, 14; xvii. 16.

In earnest sympathy for their condition, Ps. cxix. 136.

In personal sacrifice for their interest, Phil. ii. 17. 2 Tim. ii. 10.

In helpfulness of those who are labouring in their service, Acts xv. 3. Rom. xv. 24. 1 Cor. xvi. 6. 3 John 5—8.

In rejoicing in the tidings of their salvation, Acts xv. 3. Luke xv. 6, 10.

In anticipating the period of their universal gathering, Isa. xi. 9; llii. 7—10.

IV. Let us engage in the work of their conversion—Under a sense of our infinite obligations, Isa. vi. 6—8. Matt. x. 8.

In the recollection of distinguishing grace, Ps. cxlvii. 19, 20.

Under the constraint of redeeming love, 2 Cor. v. 14, 15.

In dependence on him who opens or shuts the door, Acts xvi. 6—10; xviii. 9—11. 1 Cor. xvi. 9. 2 Cor. ii. 12. Rev. iii. 7, 8.

In the expectation of the outpouring of the Spirit, Isa. xliv. 3—5. Acts ii. 17; xi. 16—18; xv. 7, 8.

V. Let us be further quickened in this blessed work,  
 By the influence of our Christian responsibility,  
 Matt. xxv. 14—30.  
 By the power of an assured faith, 1 Cor. xv. 58.  
 In the enlargements of our spiritual apprehensions, Ps. cxlv. 10—13.  
 In the habit of increased self-denial, 2 Cor. viii. 1—5.  
 In the exercise of mutual sympathy and provocation, Heb. x. 24.  
 In the certainty of Divine acceptance of our work, Matt. x. 42; xxv. 40. Mark x. 28—30.  
 By the encouragement of hastening the coming of the Lord, Matt. xxiv. 14.  
 Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children ; and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us : and establish thou the work of our hands upon us : yea, the work of our hands establish thou it, Ps. xc. 16, 17.

## CII.

## ISAIAH xliii. 21.

This people have I formed for myself ; they shall show forth my praise.

Let this text prevent discouragement, enliven faith, and quicken to exertion in the cause of the Lord's ancient people.

I. Many indeed are the present discouragements of the work.

They are fallen from their high honour, Lam. v. 16.

They are under a judicial blindness of heart,  
John xii. 40. Rom. xi. 7—10.

They have brought themselves under the awful  
curse of God, Matt. xxiii. 37—39; xxvii. 25.  
1 Thess. ii. 16.

They are disqualified for the privilege of access  
to God, Hos. iii. 4. Heb. xiii. 10.

They have shut themselves out from the only  
way of acceptance, Rom. ix. 32.

They are under the covenant of condemnation  
and death, Gal. iii. 10; v. 2—4.

They are outcasts and wanderers on the earth,  
Deut. xxvii. 57, 64. Luke xxi. 24.

## II. But faith triumphs over all discouragements.

“God hath formed them for himself.”

In absolute sovereignty, Deut. vii. 6—8; x. 15;  
xiv. 2. Ps. cxxxv. 4.

In unchanging faithfulness, 1—3; xli. 8, 9;  
xlii. 21; liv. 6—10. Jer. xxxi. 35—37.  
Mic. vii. 20. Mal. iii. 6. Rom. xi. 1, 2, 29.

In everlasting love, Deut. vii. 8. Jer. xxxi. 1—  
3. Rom. xi. 28.

“They shall show forth his praise.”

As the witnesses of his character, 10—12; xlii.  
6—9.

As the monument of his power, 16—21; xli. 1—4.

As the depositories of his truth, Ps. cxlvii. 19,  
20. Rom. iii. 2.

As a special people for his honour, 7; lxii. 35.  
Deut. xxxii. 9. Jer. xxxi. 6—9.

As the instruments of his blessing to the world,  
ii. 2; xxvii. 6; lx. 1—3; lxvi. 19, 20. Gen.  
xii. 2, 3. Ps. lxvii. 1, 2; cii. 13—15. Mic.  
v. 7. Zech. viii. 13, 23. Rom. xi. 12, 15.

As restored to their own land, Deut. xxx. 1—5.  
 Ezek. xxxvi. 24, 28; xxxvii. 12—14, 21, 25.  
 As blessed with the influence of converting  
 grace, Deut. xxx. 6.  
 As visited with large vouchsafements of Divine  
 favour, xxx. 26. Jer. xxxiii. 6. Ez. xxxix. 29.

What are the lessons to be learned from the Lord's  
 dispensations with the Jews?

Deep humility, Rom. xi. 17—20.  
 Adoring praise, 32, 33.  
 Contemplation of the Divine goodness, 22.  
 Submission to the Divine righteousness, Rom.  
 ix. 30—32; x. 3.  
 Fear of the Divine judgments, Heb. iii. 19; iv. 1.

What are our practical duties to the Jews?

Acknowledgment of our obligations, Rom. xv.  
 26, 27.  
 Compassion for their wretchedness and guilt,  
 Neh. ii. 2, 3. Ps. cii. 14. Jer. ix. 1. Luke  
 xix. 41. Rom. ix. 1—3.  
 Preparing the way for their conversion, lxii. 10.  
 Preaching the Gospel to them, xl. 9; lxii. 10,  
 11. Ez. xxxvii. 4, 12—14. Luke xxiv. 47.  
 Praying for their restoration and prosperity, lxii.  
 6, 7. Ps. li. 18; liii. 6; cxxii. 6. Jer. xxxi.  
 7. Dan. ix. 16—19. Mic. v. 14. Rom. x. 1.  
 General interest in their welfare, Esth. x. 3.  
 Jer. xxxi. 7.  
 Searching into and anticipating the period of  
 their conversion, Ps. cii. 13. Dan. ix. 2; xii.  
 9—12.  
 Communicating in return the mercies received  
 through them, Rom. xi. 30, 31.

What are the Christian motives to labour for the Jews?

The display of the glory of God in their conversion, lx. 1. Ps. cii. 16.

Our own interest, Gen. xii. 3. Num. xxiv. 9  
Ps. cxxii. 6.

The prosperity of the Church, Ps. cxxii. 7, 8.

The salvation of the world, Ps. cii. 15. Rom. xi. 15.

Return, O Lord, unto the many thousands of Israel, Num. x. 36.



### CIII.

#### REVELATION xxii. 20.

Surely I come quickly.

The joy of faith is fixed upon the grand consummation, the *personal coming of the Lord*. Every exercise of faith, every Christian grace, is quickened in energy and holy influence by the contemplation of this event.

We leave the time, whether before or after the millennium, as a matter of controversy.

We look only to that which is clear and undoubtedly on all sides.

Mark,

I. The Scriptural expectation of the coming of the Lord—

As certain, Matt. xxiv. 30, 35. Acts i. 11.

As near, Text, 7, 10, 12. Phil. iv. 5. Heb. x. 37. James v. 8, 9. 1 Pet. iv. 7.

As sudden and unexpected, xvi. 15. Matt.

xxiv. 27, 43, 44; xxv. 6. Luke xvii. 28—30;  
 xxi. 34—36. 1 Thess. v. 2. 2 Pet. iii. 10.

As glorious, Matt. xxv. 31. Tit. ii. 13.

## II. The glory of his coming.

He comes, not as he once did,

In humiliation, Luke ii. 7. John i. 10. Matt.  
 viii. 20. Phil. ii. 7.

In shame, John viii. 48. Isa. l. 6. Matt. xxvii.  
 29—31.

In suffering, Isa. lii. 14; liii. 3. Matt. xxvi.  
 38; xxvii. 46.

Under the curse, Isa. liii. 4—6. 2 Cor. v. 21.  
 Gal. iii. 13.

But,

In the clouds of heaven, i. 7; xiv. 14; xx. 11.  
 Matt. xxiv. 30; xxvi. 64.

In the glory of his Father, Matt. xvi. 27; xxv.  
 31.

With his holy angels, Matt. xxiv. 31; xxv. 31.  
 1 Thess. iv. 16. 2 Thess. i. 7.

With his glorified saints, Zech. xiv. 5. 1 Thess.  
 iii. 13; iv. 14. Jude 14.

## III. The ends of his coming.

To his own people most blessed, Tit. ii. 13. 1  
 Pet. iv. 13.

To the ungodly most awful, i. 7; vi. 15—17.

To raise his people to xx. 12, 13. Dan. xii. 1,  
 life,

To call the ungodly xv. 22, 23, 51, 52.  
 to condemnation,

To crown his people Isa. lxvi. 5. Dan. xii.  
 with glory, 1, 2. Mal. iii. 17, 18;

To overwhelm the un- iv. 1. Matt. xiii. 38—  
 godly with shame, 41; xxv. 34—46.

- To give rest to his people from persecution, 2  
Thess. i. 7.
- To recompense tribulation to their ungodly persecutors, 2 Thess. i. 6. Jude 14, 15.
- To fulfil the confidence of his people, Isa. xxv. 9. Heb. x. 35—37.
- To rebuke the unbelief of the ungodly, Matt. xxiv. 37—39, 48—51. 2 Pet. iii. 3—10.
- To rule over his people with faithfulness, } Ps. xcvi. 13; xcvi. 9.
- To judge the world with righteousness, } Acts xvii. 31. Rom. ii. 5, 6
- To dispense the rewards of grace to his people, } 12. Matt. xvi. 27; xxv. 19—23. Rom. ii. 7.
- To give retributive justice to the ungodly, } xx. 12, 13. Matt. xvi. 27. Rom. ii. 8, 9.
- To give to his people complete victory over death, } Isa. xxv. 8. 1 Cor. xv. 51—54. Phil. iii. 20, 21.
- To deliver the ungodly into the power of eternal death, } xx. 15; xxi. 8.
- To receive his people to himself, } John xiv. 2, 3. 1 Thess. iv. 17.
- To banish the ungodly from his presence, } Matt. xxv. 12, 41. 2 Thess. i. 9.

#### IV. The preparation for his coming.

Let the uncertainty of the time

- Rouse the ungodly from slumber, Matt. xxiv. 37—39, 48—51; xxv. 6, 10—12.
- Quicken the Lord's people to watchfulness, xvi.

15. Matt. xxiv. 42—44; xxv. 10—13. Luke xii. 35—40; xxi. 34—36. 1 Thess. v. 2—6.  
Maintain the habit of constant prayer, Mark xiii. 33. Luke xxi. 36.

Let the certainty of the event

Call the ungodly to repentance, Acts iii. 19; xvii. 30, 31.

Awaken them to solemn inquiry, Mal. iii. 2.

Persuade them to prepare to meet their Judge, 2 Cor. v. 10, 11.

Operate as a principle of practical godliness to the Lord's people, xvi. 15. Acts xxiv. 15, 16. Phil. iii. 20, 21. Col. iii. 4, 5. 1 Thess. iii. 12, 13. Tit. ii. 12, 13. 2 Pet. iii. 11—14. 1 John iii. 2, 3.

Induce a spirit of forbearance, 1 Cor. iv. 3—5.

Encourage to steadfast profession, 2 Thess. ii. 1, 2. Jude 20, 21.

Cheer the soul in affliction, 1 Pet. i. 6, 7; iv. 12, 13.

Quicken our diligence in the work of God, Matt. xxv. 14—30. 2 Tim. iv. 1, 2. 1 Pet. i. 13.

Cheer the ministers of Christ in their toilsome work, 1 Thess. ii. 19, 20. 1 Pet. v. 4. 1 John ii. 28.

Let the nearness of the event

Rouse from lukewarmness, iii. 11. Rom. xiii. 11, 12.

Loose the heart from earthly ties, 1 Cor. vii. 29—31. Phil. iv. 5. 1 Pet. iv. 7.

Lead us to mark the signs of the times, Luke xxi. 28—31.

Become a practical principle of endurance and love, Heb. x. 24, 25. James v. 8, 9.

The marks of the Christian are, that

He looks for this coming, Phil. iii. 20. Tit. ii.

13. Heb. ix. 28.

He longs for it, Text. Rom. viii. 23. 2 Pet. iii. 12.

He waits for it, Luke xii. 35. Rom. viii. 24, 25. 1 Cor. i. 7. 1 Thess. i. 10. 2 Thess. iii. 5.

He loves it, 2 Tim. iv. 8.

He prays for it, Cant. viii. 14.

THE END.

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